

## **Fall Feast Day Lessons 2017.**

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**In accordance with our commission in Matthew 10: 8 this booklet is not to be sold.** It contains sermon material for the Feast of Tabernacles 2017 for our Feast site in Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, and is intended to assist Nazarene Israelites and like-minded believers to enjoy Sukkoth with us, wherever they spend this important time on the Hebrew calendar.

All Scriptures used are from the 'NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE', unless otherwise indicated. Set-apart Names corrected in quotes used, in accord with this Bible's 'Principles of Translation'.

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**Opening night: Wednesday October 04 at 7.30pm: 'Reality therapy.'**

Shalom all, we are here this week to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, which includes the Last Great Day. We are here at the invitation of YHVH our Elohim, who is our host at this Feast, as He is on any other Set-apart Day. We need to be mindful that He is present with us, as He is also with any other group keeping His Set-apart Days. We know that YHVH is Omni-present and that He is present throughout the universe.

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth) is an exercise in faith. True faith is not the belief that because Elohim runs the world, everything will turn out the way we would like it to. True faith is the belief that because Elohim runs the world, however things turn out is an expression of His love for us and is for our ultimate good. When we leave our homes to come together at the Feast of Tabernacles, we leave behind the illusion of security fostered by our comfortable homes and the environment we are used to. But we need to understand that all physical security is an illusion. After all, our homes may be invulnerable to rain, but they are vulnerable to the bank's foreclosure. In this sense, the temporary situation brought about by the next eight days is a week of reality therapy. Instead, the temporary dwelling offers the comfort (and joy) of dwelling within the Divine Presence. The Set-apart Spirit surrounds our temporary dwelling, creating a place of Divine presence. The nature of spiritual reality is that it is eternal, imperishable and invincible.

Yes, conditions in our temporary dwelling may not be ideal, but the spiritual dimension that it represents is as unaffected as a diamond, come rain or shine. "Temporary consciousness" is the awareness of the proximity of Elohim. After the spiritual purging of Yom Teruah and Atonement, Sukkoth comes as a reward for the soul, the only reward the spiritual realm offers is a sense of being close to Elohim, but also the result of spiritual joy.

But can spiritual joy offset the dismay and despair of physical and financial loss? Imagine that a fire breaks out in your home in the middle of the night. You awake to a blazing inferno. Suddenly, the firemen burst into your room and lead you out of the house to safety. In shock, you watch as your entire house and all your possessions go up in flames. But where are your family members – your parents, spouse or children? Have they been consumed by the fire, or were they also rescued? In the darkness and chaos, you panic in fear for your loved ones. Then, suddenly, someone rushes into your arms. You look up to see the people you love most in the world. They are alive and safe. Wouldn't the spiritual joy you feel at that moment offset the dismay and despair of losing all your possessions?

An intimate and loving relationship with Elohim can offset any physical or financial loss. But do you know what the most important thing in this world is to know? **To know that Elohim loves you!** Have a very good night, we see you all tomorrow morning at 10.30am *'im yirtzeh Elohim'* (if Elohim wills).

### **Thursday October 05: 'The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) 2017.**

The Feast of Tabernacles is the sixth annual festival of Elohim and pictures the coming millennium, during which all of the survivors of the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH and their progeny will have an opportunity for salvation. The Feast of Tabernacles is commanded to be kept every year, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 33 - 35, in this way: **'Again YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, (34) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHVH. (35) On the first day is a holy (set-apart) convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind.'"** We see that on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles all ordinary work is forbidden and believers are to gather before Elohim for worship services. We read further from verse 41 of Leviticus 23, **'You shall thus celebrate it (the Feast of Booths) as a feast to YHVH for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month (according to the Hebrew Calendar that Elohim gave Moses and those who sit in his seat to proclaim annually).'**

We see from (Exodus 23: 16 &) Exodus 34: 22, that the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths was also referred to as the Feast of Ingathering, in this way: **"And you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year."** The underlined sentence refer to the autumnal equinox, since it celebrated the late summer-early autumn harvest, as witnessed in Leviticus 23: 39, as follows: **"On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHVH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day."** The harvest festival was to be a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for Elohim's abundant blessings. Elohim used the two annual harvest seasons in the Land of Israel in the Middle East, to picture the future harvests of mankind into His spiritual Family. The spring grain harvest is small compared to the great fall (autumn) harvest and is represented by the Feast of Weeks lasting only one day. It pictures the spiritual first fruits consisting of a relatively small number of people from the house of Judah, who remained strictly Torah observant and those from the lost sheep of the house of Israel (including a number of real Gentiles) whom Elohim has called into His congregation during this age and who remained faithful, when they will be born (again) into His Spiritual Family when Messiah returns on Yom Teruah (or the Feast of Trumpets) in the near future. The Feast of Tabernacles lasts a full seven days, showing that the greatest part of Elohim's second harvest of mankind into His Kingdom, will last for a thousand years. People will be born physically, called of Elohim during the Millennium, and after fulfilling their life's purpose of growing in Elohim's perfect character, born spiritually into His family.

During Yahshua Messiah's human life on earth, the descendants of Judah who returned to the Promised Land during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah were still keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, as follows: **'Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.'** Rav Yochanan called the celebration *'the feast of the Jews'* because His book was primarily written for the Gentiles. The house of Israel had lost the knowledge of Elohim's Set-apart Days, but Judah had preserved the Tanach and the Sabbaths according to Elohim's instructions. Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8, and we read from verses 10 & 14, how He also kept the Feast of Tabernacles with His Jewish Brothers, in this way: **'But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.'** Yahshua had been present at the Feast from the first day, although He only stood up to teach near the middle of the feast. He arrived secretly and kept out of the limelight because certain of the religious leaders were seeking to kill Him. Even though Yahshua was critical of the *'traditions of the elders'*, He always made it clear that Elohim's laws remained binding, and went on to magnify them in Matthew 5, 6 & 7. All twelve tribes of Israel will keep the Feast of Tabernacles during the Millennium as witnessed in Hosea 12: 8 & 9, as follows: **'And Ephraim said, "Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they will find in me no iniquity, which would be sin." (9) But I have been**

***YHVH your Elohim since the land of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of the appointed festivals.*** Even the Gentile nations will join Israel in keeping the Feast of Booths during the Millennium, as witnessed in Zechariah 14: 16, in this way: ***'Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.'*** Those nations who refuse to keep the Feast of booths annually, will be punished, as recorded in verse 17, as follows: ***'And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, there will be no rain on them.*** Those who refuse to obey Elohim's Sabbaths at this time are allowed to exercise their free will, but He will only protect those who obey Him during the time of trouble immediately ahead.

Elohim wants His people to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles, regardless of their age, social class or economic standard as He instructed in Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 15, saying: ***"You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; (14) and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. (15) Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to YHVH your Elohim in the place which YHVH chooses, because YHVH your Elohim will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you shall be altogether joyful."*** In fact we see according to Elohim's instruction we should spend the tithe that we are supposed to set aside for the Feast Days of Elohim, on whatever our hearts desire, so long as it is kosher, as recorded in Deuteronomy 14: 22 – 26, in this way: ***"You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. (23) And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always. (24) And if the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where YHVH your Elohim chooses to set His name is too far away from you when YHVH your Elohim blesses you, (25) then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which YHVH your Elohim chooses. (26) And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim and rejoice, you and your household."*** The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of great rejoicing during which we make YHVH King in our lives. In ancient Israel it was a time of rejoicing because of the abundant winter food supply, harvested just prior to the Feast. Elohim's people at the Feast demonstrate now, by the way they live together in harmony, what the world will be like after Messiah returns.

We notice from verses 22 – 26 above that YHVH commanded his people to save a tithe (10 percent of their net income) throughout the year to be spent in travelling to and attending the Feast. The Feast of Tabernacles gives Elohim's called out people the opportunity to live joyfully for 8 days; to live above what they would normally be able to afford, so that they may experience a foretaste of the wealth the whole world will enjoy in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. We see that when the Set-apart Spirit is poured out freely during the Millennium, the attitude of human beings will change for the better, as we read from Micah 4: 1 – 4, as follows: ***'And it will come about in the last days that the mountain (government) of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (2) And many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of YHVH and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. (3) And he will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. (4) And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of YHVH of hosts has spoken.'*** We see further from Isaiah 11: 6 - 9 that even the nature of wild animals will be changed

during the Millennium rule of Messiah, in this way: ***“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. (7) Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (8) And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. (9) They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.”*** Once Elohim places His Spirit within repentant mankind during the Millennium, people will begin to express outgoing love and concern for others and will obey Elohim.

The coming government of Elohim will not be a democracy, or any other form of human government, but Messiah will rule supreme from world headquarters in Jerusalem, as we read from Jeremiah 3: 17, as follows: ***“At that time they shall call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of YHVH,’ and all nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of YHVH; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.”*** We see further from Daniel 7: 14, 18 & 27, ***“And to Him (the Son of Man) was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (18) But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. (27) Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”*** Messiah will be over true believers from both houses of Israel as their Husband, since they will constitute His body and bride ruling under Him as kings and priest during the millennium. Messiah was showing in the parable of the pounds (or minas) that those who develop their talents (abilities) to do Elohim’s will, will be rewarded with positions of rulership. There will be local administration districts, some larger, some smaller – that will be administered by the Spirit born again children of Elohim. Yahshua revealed the names of several faithful servants of Elohim who will be given high positions under Him in the Kingdom of Elohim, in Luke 13: 28, saying: ***“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of Elohim, but yourselves being cast out.”*** We see that David will again rule over the modern descendants of Jacob, from Ezekiel 37: 24 & 25, ***“And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in my ordinances, and keep my statutes, and observe them. (25) And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their son’s sons, forever, and David My servant shall be their prince forever.”*** The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and other men of Elohim such as Joseph, Job, Moses and David, will be brought back to life, immortal, in glorified power, to occupy high executive positions in the new world government. We see further from Luke 22: 29 – 30 that Yahshua’s disciples, who remained loyal to Him, will also have executive positions in the Kingdom of Elohim, in this way: ***“And just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you (30) that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*** The resurrected immortal true believers from both houses, will similarly to Messiah’s original disciples, judge the rest of mankind as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 6: 2, as follows: ***‘Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?’*** In Elohim’s government on earth His already established laws will be applicable; His family of sons and daughters will enforce these laws, by interpreting and judging cases accordingly; and by teaching the survivors of the great tribulation and the day of YHVH, and their children these Laws.

Yahshua taught in Matthew 20: 26 - 28 that every divine ruler will rule his subjects in genuine love and concern, saying: ***“It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, (27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; (28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*** Each ruler under Messiah will rule with authority given them by Messiah, as He said in Revelation 2:

26 & 27, in this way: ***“And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.”*** Elohim’s government will be perfectly organized, devoid of red tape and excessive bureaucracies, and will be permanent. No time and money will be wasted on election campaigns and there will be no political mud-slinging, insurrections, or rebellions, because Elohim’s government cannot be overthrown. Nor will any member of the government ever turn into another adversary like Satan, as witnessed in 1 John 3: 9, as follows: ***‘No one who is born of Elohim practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim.’*** Spirit-born teachers in Elohim’s Kingdom will have 100% success rate in teaching people, as we read from Habakkuk 2: 14, in this way: ***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHVH, as the waters cover the sea.”*** Spiritual blindness will be removed during the Millennium and people will begin to live Elohim’s way of giving and outgoing concern for fellow human beings.

People will no longer be influenced by Satan and the false attraction of this present world to distract them from overcoming their human nature that will come to an end. Elohim’s way will become the popular broad way and pressures in society that now urge people toward conformity with this present evil world, will be changed toward conformity with Elohim’s standard, toward overcoming human nature and building Elohim’s perfect character. When Messiah has forcibly put down those who fill the earth with violence, He will abolish the fear of war, as witnessed in Isaiah 2: 4, as follows: ***‘And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.’*** Just imagine, never again any destruction of the fruit of years of labor, no more waste of human life and no young men drafted from their home, to have their minds confused with hatred. We also do not ever have to fear that Yahshua our Messiah will be a tyrannical ruler, as we read from Isaiah 11: 4, in this way: ***‘But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips he will slay the wicked.’*** Yahshua will make perfect unbiased decisions, as indicated in verse 3 of Isaiah 11, as follows: ***‘And He will delight in the fear of YHVH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear.’***

In addition, Elohim will liberate people from fear of sickness and disease, as recorded in Isaiah 33: 24, in this way: ***‘And no resident will say, “I am sick”; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.’*** The mentally and physically handicapped will be healed miraculously as confirmed in Isaiah 35: 3 – 6, as follows: ***“Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. (4) Say to those with anxious heart, “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your Elohim will come with vengeance; the recompense of Elohim will come. But He will save you.” (5) Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. (6) Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.”*** Education about true health and the miraculous healing of all sickness and disease will mean radiant health for everyone during that time. There will be no more fear and worries in the cities and they will be filled with radiantly happy families, as witnessed in Jeremiah 33: 10 - 11, in this way: ***“Thus says YHVH, ‘Yet again there shall be heard in this place, of which you say, “It is a waste, without man and without beast,” that is, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, (11) the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, “Give thanks to YHVH of hosts, for YHVH is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting ”; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of YHVH. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,’ says YHVH.’*** People will no longer fear their neighbors. They won’t have to worry about living next door to someone who is mentally unbalanced, a pervert or a murderer. The old won’t have to fear being attacked and brutally beaten by some juvenile delinquents out looking for fun.



Most of the earth's land surface will become productive again, and there will be forests, agricultural areas and fish-filled lakes and streams, with no polluted rivers or ravaged landscapes all over the world, because old waste places will be made fertile, as witnessed in Isaiah 41: 18 & 19, as follows: ***"I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land fountains of water. (19) I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia, and the myrtle, and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert, together with the box tree and the cypress."*** We also read from Amos 9: 13 & 14, ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will be dissolved. (14) Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit."***

One of the major barriers to cooperation between the different peoples of the world today, is confusion of languages. But we see from Zephaniah 3: 9 that Elohim will give the whole world a pure language during the Millennium, as follows: ***"For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of YHVH, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder."*** This will start an era of worldwide literacy and education through a pure language, and people everywhere will speak, read and write that same language (which will most probably be a pure form of Hebrew). Reeducation will not teach people to have self-confidence, but confidence in Elohim dwelling in them through the Set-apart Spirit. The only fear that will remain during the Millennium will be the proper fear of Elohim, as witnessed in Isaiah 59: 19, in this way: ***'So they will fear the name of YHVH from the west and His glory from the rising of the sun. For He will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of YHVH drives."*** This fear is not terror and misery, but the mature, sound-minded realization that disobeying the laws that Elohim has set in motion for our good, leads to nothing but trouble, wretchedness and deprivation. In fact the Feast of Tabernacles was given that we might learn to fear Elohim always, as confirmed in Deuteronomy 14: 23 in this way: ***"And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always."***

At Messiah's return He will deliver the remnant of the descendants of ancient Israel, who will have become captives during the coming Great Tribulation. They will not be changed to immortality at Messiah's return, but will enter the Promised Land as physical human beings. The remnant of Israel still alive at that time, will be eager to enter into a 'perpetual covenant' with Elohim, as recorded in Jeremiah 50: 4 & 5, as follows: ***"In those days and at that time," declares YHVH, "The sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be YHVH their Elohim they will seek, (5) They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to YHVH in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten."*** Messiah's blood will cleanse all Israel so that in living a truly 'converted' life, the nation will reach the apex of joy and gladness and material prosperity, as YHVH inspired Jeremiah to write in Jeremiah 33: 7 – 9, saying: ***'And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. (8) And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (9) And it shall be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do for them, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'*** At that time, Elohim will bestow upon obedient Israel all of the great material blessings He promised to give their ancestors had they obeyed (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28).

Abraham's offspring were prophesied to become extremely numerous in Genesis 13: 16. We see from a prophecy by Ezekiel in Ezekiel 36: 10 & 11, that Israel's population will reach its peak during

the millennium, in this way: ***'And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. (11) And I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am YHVH.'*** A second witness comes from Isaiah 60: 21 & 22, as follows: ***'Then all your people will be righteous; they will possess the land forever, the branch of My planting, the works of My hands, that I may be glorified. (22) The smallest one will become a clan, and the least one a mighty nation. I, YHVH, will hasten it in its time.'*** In fact we see from Isaiah 27: 6 that in those days the Israelites will again spread into every part of the globe and be a blessing to the rest of the world both materially and spiritually. As the Gentiles will start following Israel in Elohim's way, they too will be blessed physically, and spiritually by becoming Abraham's 'seed' – through Messiah (as per Galatians 3: 28 & 29), becoming Spirit-begotten and finally Spirit-born into the Family of Elohim. The 12 tribes of Israel will truly become the model nation that Elohim intended them to be, during the millennium.

The Feast of Tabernacles also pictures the 'marriage supper' (or wedding reception) of Yahshua Messiah and His Spirit-born congregation. According to Revelation 19: 6 & 7, the marriage of the Lamb will occur after Messiah's return, as follows: ***'And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Halleluyah! For YHVH our Elohim, the Almighty reigns. (7) Lets rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."*** Messiah's marriage will be a time of great rejoicing after the war, darkness and trouble that will occur before Messiah's return, pictured by the Feast of Trumpets. In ancient Israel a marriage feast lasted for seven days as witnessed in Judges 14: 2, 10 & 12, in this way: ***'So he (Samson) came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." (10) Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. (12) Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes."*** Similarly the Feast of Tabernacles picturing the marriage feast of Messiah also lasts for seven days, and in the same way that a bride is bound to obey her groom as long as they live, will the Bride of Messiah obey Him forever, as depicted in Ephesians 5: 22 – 27 & 32, as follows: ***'Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Master. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is the head of the congregation, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (24) But as the congregation is subject to Messiah, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the congregation and gave Himself up for her; (26) that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) that He might present to Himself the congregation in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the congregation.'***

As recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, Nehemiah read the Torah to the people at the Feast of Tabernacles from the first day to the last day. Similarly must those who will be added to the body of Messiah during the Millennium, learn Elohim's Torah in their lives – so that they will be able to teach others during that time. Messiah emphasized the necessity for an inner change, brought about by the Set-apart Spirit to prepare new believers for the marriage of the Lamb, in Matthew 25: 6 – 10, saying: ***'But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'*** (7) ***Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'*** (9) ***But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'*** (10) ***And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.'*** Ancient Israel did not have the heart to fear and obey Elohim always (as per Deuteronomy 29: 4), but when they receive the Set-apart Spirit it will enable them to obey, as YHVH inspired Jeremiah to write in Jeremiah 32: 38 -

40, saying: ***“And they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim; (39) and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. (40) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.”*** The Covenant that YHVH made with both houses of Israel at Mount Sinai was a marriage agreement as may be seen from Jeremiah 31: 32. When the house of Israel persistently broke the terms of the agreement and committed spiritual adultery – her sins divorced her from the One who later became Yahshua Messiah, as we read from the first part of Jeremiah 3: 8, as follows: ***“And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce.”***

Elohim’s true congregation of called out believers are composed of mainly bloodline Israelites from the house of Judah, but also from the house of Israel who were intermixed into the nations of the world, but who returned to the covenant they made with Elohim, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai. In addition Gentile believers may also enter the congregation of Elohim, by becoming spiritual Israelites through faith in Messiah as explained by Rav Shaul in Galatians 3: 26 – 29. Messiah will remarry both houses of Israel again, but at that time they will be immortal, righteous and spiritual, not carnal, as at Sinai. These Spiritual Israelites will be the rulers of the physical nation of Israel and those physical Israelites who qualify during the Millennium, will be added to Elohim’s congregation of rulers, as they are born-again. Isaiah 54 describes spiritual Israel remarried to Messiah, in contrast to the physical nation during the past 3,500 years. The congregation is presently made up of only a few truly converted believers from both houses (including a small number of real Gentiles) and will remain so, until the making of the New (marriage) Covenant. Physical Israel never multiplied as fast as the congregation of converted Israelites will multiply during the Millennium. The Family of Elohim is preparing for great things in the future. The Millennium is only the beginning of eternity, joy, happiness and accomplishment that will last forever. To us as called out believers, the Feast of Tabernacles is a continual reminder of Israel’s 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, because they lived in temporary dwellings during that time, as recorded in Leviticus 23: 42 & 43, in this way: ***‘You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, (43) so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am YHVH your Elohim.’*** The rebellious generation in the wilderness is a type of all carnal, rebellious people, and the temporary dwellings typify the fact that humans even during the 1,000 years will be mortal, and that human life and society throughout the Millennium will be only temporary. We need to understand that only eternal life is permanent! We see that our Israelite forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob also lived in temporary dwellings as heirs, but not yet as inheritors, as witnessed in Hebrews 11: 9 & 13, as follows: ***‘By faith he (Abraham) lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise. (13) All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth.’*** So their dwelling in booths pictured that they were only heirs, not yet inheritors of eternal life in Elohim’s Kingdom and eternal possession of the land.

Believers in Messiah are at this time only aliens and strangers as Rav Kepha wrote in first Peter 2: 11, saying: ***‘Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.’*** In fact near the end of his life, Rav Kepha compared his physical body to a temporary dwelling, in 2 Peter 1: 13 & 14, saying: ***‘And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, (14) knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Master Yahshua Messiah has made clear to me.’*** Human beings made from the dust of the ground are destined to die and only after receiving Elohim’s Spirit can we hope to live forever, as is recorded in first John 5: 11, in this way: ***‘And the witness is this, that Elohim has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.’*** Our physical bodies, with all our imperfections, our natural desires, our weaknesses, aches and pains – are meant to last only long

enough for us to learn to serve Elohim in this life. By staying in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles each year, we are reminded that this physical life is only temporary, and that we are merely pilgrims, waiting to inherit the Kingdom of Elohim.

After Messiah return to establish Elohim's kingdom on earth, His government will continue to expand, as witnessed in Isaiah 9: 7, in this way: ***"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness, from then on and forever more. The zeal of YHVH of hosts will accomplish this."*** The government of Elohim, like leaven in a lump of dough, will gradually spread throughout the whole earth during the Millennium, until eventually thousands of millions will be spiritually converted. The great harvest of human beings, pictured by the autumn harvest in the Holy Land, will be gathered into the Kingdom of Elohim – born again as spiritual members of the Elohim Family. By the end of the 1,000 years, Elohim's family will be ready for the final step in Elohim's Master Plan of salvation. Halleluyah!

#### **Friday October 06: 'What is death?'**

There is absolutely nothing that supports the idea that man is an immortal soul in a physical body. In addition science can provide no evidence of the existence of an immortal soul, since modern science only deals with physical, material substance and behavior, which can be observed via the five senses. The spiritual is totally outside the sphere of physical science and therefore not subject to the

scientific method, since science cannot measure any life apart from matter. However, what science has learned can nevertheless help a great deal in understanding the composition of man.

For example, science has discovered that all living matter in its simplest form is protoplasm; a substance which compose the cells of plants and animals as well as man. They also know that individuals who died on the operating table and were subsequently revived through direct heart massage and other means, remembered absolutely nothing about the occurrence and went nowhere! They were simply unconscious and were resuscitated on the operating table as if they had been sleeping and because brain deterioration occurs very quickly when deprived of oxygen, some of their thought, reasoning and memory faculties may deteriorate. These proofs indicate that an 'immortal soul', if it exists, is completely unable to think, reason and remember when separated from the body. As a result science acknowledges that it has no evidence of an immortal soul in man. But let's examine the Scriptures the foundation of all knowledge to see what it says about the matter. In it the Creator of everything that exists including mankind, has revealed a great deal of knowledge totally beyond man's ability to discover for himself, including the knowledge and understanding of what man is and what his ultimate destiny is. Yahshua confirmed in John 3: 6 that man is composed of flesh, different to that which is 'born of spirit', which is Spirit. Yahshua told Nicodemus plainly that if one is born of, and accordingly composed of flesh, he cannot be born of spirit. He has to be either one or the other. This verse alone provides convincing evidence that man is not an immortal soul in a body of flesh.

But in order to understand whether man has an immortal soul, let's go back to creation, when the first man was formed, to discover exactly what happened. In Genesis 2: 7 Elohim created the first man and tells us what He made him from, so there would be no doubt as to what we really are, as follows: ***'Then YHVH Elohim formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (or soul).'*** We see further from Genesis 3: 19 that the whole man was composed of dust, in this way: ***'By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'*** After Elohim had formed the man and made every cell in his body, He breathed into him the breath of life. Elohim blew air; 'the breath of life' containing oxygen, into the man's lungs through his nostrils and the man began to live. This verse does not say that Elohim breathed an immortal soul into the man, since as confirmed in Genesis 7: 21 & 22, the source of life in man and animals is the same, as follows: ***'And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; (22) of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.'*** If therefore the breath of life meant that man have an immortal soul, then so do animals, birds and insects such as flies, bugs, mosquitoes and fleas. The truth is man does not have a soul; man is a soul.

The 'soul' then, is merely life that is subject to death and decay. It is not immortal! When man stops breathing he dies and becomes a dead soul. This is confirmed in Ezekiel 18: 4, as follows: ***"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die."*** Man is simply mortal as is also confirmed by Job in Job 4: 17 (KJV), in this way: ***'Shall mortal man be more just than Elohim? Shall a man be more pure than his maker?'*** Because man is a soul and the soul is mortal, he is subject to death. It is for that reason that the Scriptures call human beings mortal man. We see further from Ecclesiastes 3: 19 & 20 that man and beast go to the same place at death, as follows: ***'For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other, indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. (20) All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.'*** In fact we see from verse 21 that Solomon ridicules the doctrine of the 'immortal soul' believed by the religions of the world, asking: ***'Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descend downward to the earth?'*** The famous Greek philosopher Plato who lived during 429 and 347 BCE and was a student of Socrates wrote in his book entitled: *'The Phaedo'*: *'Death is merely the separation of soul and body.'* Solomon therefore asks a

question which no pagan can answer. Man is a living, breathing mortal creature; a living soul in whose nostrils is air. When man takes a breath of air, it passes through his trachea, into the lungs and into little sacs called alveoli. There oxygen is absorbed from the air and goes into the blood vessels from the lungs on the way back to the heart and is pumped again throughout the body, the oxygen is carried by red blood cells throughout the body, to the individual cells. Each of man's 60 trillion cells uses oxygen to 'burn' his food to make energy required to operate his organs and muscles, and to maintain body heat. The life of man clearly depends on the blood and blood needs 'the breath of life' to keep the body active and alive, as is confirmed in Deuteronomy 12: 23, in this way: **"Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh."** In this verse the Hebrew word 'nephesh' is translated as life. Therefore the word 'nephesh' refers to the life of man which depends on his blood. From Isaiah 52: 10 & 12 we understand that Messiah offered His body to be impaled and allowed His life blood (or soul) to be poured out, thus bearing the sin of many.

We see clearly from Ecclesiastes 9: 5 when a person dies, he loses all consciousness, as follows: **'For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.'** A second witness come from Psalm 146: 3 & 4, in this way: **'Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. (4) His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.'** Since these verses in the Scriptures clearly show that the dead are not conscious of anything, we can logically conclude that man is not born with an immortal soul which is conscious and aware of things happening around it after death. In addition we read from Psalm 115: 17, **'The dead do not praise YHVH, nor do any who go down into silence.'** Nevertheless, Christianity and Muslims teach that they have immortal souls and their reward for belief in their particular deity, is to spend eternity in heaven, with Muslims adding the benefit of 72 virgins to pass the time. This despite King David reminding us in Psalm 6: 5, saying: **'For there is no mention of Thee in death; in Sheol (meaning the grave) who will give Thee thanks?'** We need to understand once for all, that death is the opposite of life. In Matthew 10: 28 Yahshua showed that the soul is not immortal and can therefore be destroyed, saying: **"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."**

Although some people use this text to support their belief of the immortality of the soul, it clearly shows that the soul is something that can be destroyed in hell and therefore the 'soul' is not immortal. The Greek word translated as soul here, is 'psuche' and it refers to the same thing as the Hebrew word 'nephesh' meaning life. In Matthew 10: 28, Messiah used this word to refer to 'life' that man cannot destroy; but which Elohim can. The question is: What kind of life did He refer to? Yahshua was talking about life which Elohim restores by the resurrection and mankind cannot 'destroy' a life that Elohim restores by the resurrection. However, Elohim can destroy it permanently by casting the resurrected person into the lake of fire, never to be resurrected again. In fact Luke makes the scripture easier to understand in Luke 12: 4 & 5, saying: **"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. (5) But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"** Elohim not only has the power to take our present physical life, but also has the power to resurrect us and if we have proved disobedient and irredeemable; to cast us into the lake of fire from which there will be no future resurrection, as witnessed in Revelation 20: 14 – 15, in this way: **'And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.'** Although men may kill their bodies, true believers know that men cannot take their hope of eternal life from them.

Nevertheless, the fact that man does not have an immortal soul does not mean he is a mere animal. We see from Genesis 1: 21, 24 & 25 that animals were created after their own kind, as follows: **'And Elohim created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the**

*waters swarmed after their kind; and every winged bird after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good. (24) Then Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind", and it was so. (25) And Elohim made the beast of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and Elohim saw that it was good.'* We see further from verses 26 & 27 that Elohim created man in His image and likeness and that man was created to rule over all the other creatures, in this way: *'Then Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing, that creeps on the earth. (27) And Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them."* When Elohim made Adam out of dust, he was shaped in the outward appearance of Elohim Himself. Elohim didn't form any other creature to be an exact clay model of Himself but gave His unique form and shape to man alone. Elohim gave man the ability to speak, think and make decisions and intended man to develop the very mind and character of Elohim. Even though each animal was created with a brain suited for each animal kind, no animal was given the gift of mind power; the special attribute of mind and character that separates men from animals. We also see from Genesis 1: 11 & 12, YHVH saying: *"Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. (12) And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and Elohim saw that it was good."* We see from this that whereas animals and mankind were created (transliterated as 'Barah' in Hebrew), the seeds of plants were already in the ground, because of the original creation which Elohim destroyed after Satan's rebellion, He simply instructed the earth to bring forth the different plants already in it.

The difference between plants and animal life is that animals like human beings have or are living souls (or creatures). Animals do not have reasoning or self-conscious minds like man, but instinctively follow habit patterns in their feeding, nesting, migration and reproduction. Elohim 'encoded' their brains with instinctive aptitudes and as a result beavers build dams and birds build nests. This is also why thousands of birds flock south each year as winter approaches in the northern hemisphere. They do not know why they are doing it and do not plan ahead for the trip. At a given signal they simply leave their summer feeding habitation in the northern hemisphere and travel thousands of miles south. Scientists, who observe this instinctual operation of the birds annually, do not have a clue as to why the birds are doing it. Each species of bird builds different nests, feeds on different foods and migrates on different routes at different times to different places, the way Elohim programmed the instinct into each kind at creation. But, man is totally different; man is able to understand and devise various ways of doing any one thing. Man can reason from memorized facts and knowledge, draw conclusions, make decisions and acts according to a predetermined plan. Each human being may build a different house, eat different foods and live totally differently from every other human being. Man being a free moral agent can originate ideas and evaluate scientific knowledge, because his mind is patterned after Elohim's mind. Man can design, plan and ensure his plans are completed, because of the 'creative' powers he has been given. Only man is self-conscious and can speculate as to why he was born, the reason for life and what happens when he dies. Unlike animals, man not only knows how to do certain things, but also knows that he knows; meaning he understands that he has knowledge. Man's attributes of mind and character make him Elohim's unique physical creation, since Elohim shared some of His own qualities with man, expecting him to ultimately develop Elohim's perfect mind and set-apart character.

Even though many animals have physical brains as large as or even larger than man's brain, not one has the powers of intellect, logic, self-consciousness and creativity. The reason for man's brain being different to that of animals is because there is a 'spirit in man', and while man does not have an immortal soul within him, Elohim will use the spirit in man, after death and complete dissolution of his body and brain to reproduce each individual at the resurrection, as witnessed in Zechariah 12: 1, in this way: *'The burden of the word of YHVH concerning Israel. Thus declares YHVH who stretches*

*out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.’* A second witness to the spirit in man is described in 1 Corinthians 2: 9 – 14, as follows: ***‘But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, and which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT ELOHIM HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”*** (10) *For to us Elohim revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of Elohim.* (11) *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim.* (12) *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim,* (13) *which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.* (14) *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of Elohim; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”* Job conforms this about the spirit in man in Job 32: 8, saying: ***“But it is the spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.”*** Notice, the spirit is not the man, but is something that is in man. The spirit in man joined with his physical brain, forms the human mind. It provides man’s brain with his unique powers of intellect and personality and gives him the ability to think rationally and make decisions. It gives him the ability to learn mathematics, languages and any other knowledge required to make a living.

However, the spirit in man does not provide him with an ‘immortal soul’. To distinguish between the spirit in man and the Spirit of Elohim, namely His Set-apart Spirit, Job continues in context to use two separate Hebrew transliterated words ‘*ruach*’ for the Spirit of Elohim and ‘*neshamah*’ for breath (or spirit in man) in Job 33: 4, saying: ***“The Spirit of Elohim has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*** When a human being dies, the spirit in man returns to Elohim, as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, saying: ***‘Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.’*** The spirit in each individual person does not only provide him/her physical brain with the power of intellect, but also becomes a spiritual pattern of the entire person, preserving his/her memory, knowledge and character. When a person dies the spiritual ‘recording’ of him/her returns to Elohim and is stored away until the time that Elohim will resurrect him/her to life again, with the identical personality. The reason why so few people heard this truth before is simply because the whole world has been deceived (as per Revelation 12: 9<sup>1</sup>). In addition, the human mind, having only the human spirit of man, cannot understand the Spiritual thing of Elohim, as we’ve seen in 1 Corinthians 2: 11 (above). It is impossible for man to see, hear or feel Spiritual things. Therefore the human mind, even though it can receive knowledge and understanding about human matters, cannot receive or understand the Spiritual knowledge of Elohim, without the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim. In a similar way that an animal brain cannot understand human matters, so can no human mind understand the Spiritual things of Elohim, unless and until it has been given a portion of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit, either because of Torah obedience for the house of Judah, or by being immersed in Yahshua’s saving name for returnees from the lost ten tribes.

In fact the truth about the ‘spirit in man’ is so important that Satan lied about it from the time that Adam and Eve were created. Although YHVH Elohim told Adam that he may not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, else he will die, Satan contradicted what YHVH told Adam, and deceived Eve, as recorded in Genesis 3: 4 as follows: ***‘And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die!”*** This was the beginning of the ‘immortality of the soul’ doctrine preached by Christianity and others today. Satan told Eve she would not surely die, meaning she had an immortal soul allowing her to live forever. Not only did Eve believe this lie, but the whole world is deceived about this matter today. The devil has deceived the whole world on nearly every point of Elohim’s truth and almost the entire world believes this lie today. Satan has deceived the world with a counterfeit

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 12: 9, ***‘And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.’***



doctrine that distorts the truth about the ‘spirit in man’ and with his clever counterfeit, has deceived most of mankind about the ‘spirit in man’ and the need for him to be resurrected from the dead. We see from 1 Timothy 6: 12 - 16 that only Elohim has immortality, in this way: ***‘Fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (13) I charge you in the presence of Elohim, who gives life to all things, and of Messiah Yahshua, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, (14) that you keep the commandment (given in verse 12) without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Master Yahshua Messiah, (15) which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Master of masters; (16) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in an unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amein!’*** We see further from 1 Timothy 1: 17, that Elohim is incorruptible, as follows: ***‘Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever.’*** The Greek word in this verse, translated as immortal, is ‘aphtharos’, meaning incorruptible. Elohim is incorruptible, not man. Rav Shaul confirms in 1 Corinthians 15: 53 & 53 that is not immortal, saying: ***‘For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.’*** Rav Shaul also gives us the timing when man will be clothed with immortality in verse 52, saying: ***‘In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.’*** He gives us additional details about the first resurrection in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 16, saying: ***‘But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua. (15) For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.’***

Rav Shaul tells us from the house of Israel in 2 Timothy 1: 8 – 10 that it was Messiah who brought us the knowledge of how to receive eternal life and immortality, saying: ***‘Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Master, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of Elohim, (9) who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Messiah Yahshua from all eternity, (10) but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Messiah Yahshua, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.’*** Rav Shaul also tells us that we should seek immortality by our perseverance in righteousness in Romans 2: 7, saying: ***‘To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.’*** Yahshua the Messiah came specifically to show those of us from the lost sheep of the house of Israel through His resurrection how we will receive eternal life as children of Elohim, since He was the first human being to be born-again from the dead, as confirmed in Colossians 1: 18, in this way: ***‘He (Yahshua) is also head of the body, the congregation; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He himself might come to have first place in everything.’*** Even though David has not been resurrected yet, and is still in his grave, Rav Kepha gives us details of Messiah’s resurrection and how King David described it in Acts 2: 29 – 35, saying: ***“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that ELOHIM HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, (31) he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS flesh SUFFER DECAY. (32) This Yahshua Elohim raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (33) Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of Elohim, and having received from the Father the promise of the Set-apart Spirit, He has poured***

**forth this which you both see and hear. (34) For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'YHVH SAID TO MY ADONAI, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.'" We see however, from Jeremiah 30: 9 that King David will be resurrected from the dead to become King over the united Israel consisting of the house of Judah and the house of Israel, as follows: 'But they shall serve YHVH their Elohim, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.'**

If man was truly an immortal soul in a physical body and if at death of the body the soul is released, then there would be no need for a resurrection to immortal life. Man would merely continue living after death. The fact that the Scriptures teach the resurrection from the dead finally proves that man does not possess an immortal soul. It was for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 13 – 18, saying: **'But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Messiah has been raised, (14) and if Messiah has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. (15) Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of Elohim, because we witnessed against Elohim that He raised Messiah, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. (16) For if the dead are not raised, not even Messiah has been raised; (17) and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. (18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished.'** Nevertheless, even Messiah warned the unrepentant man will perish in Luke 13: 3, saying: **'I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'** A dictionary definition of the word perish tells us that it means to stop living. A pertinent question then would be: If man was an immortal soul, how could he actually perish? But we have Messiah's assurance regarding the resurrection of the dead in John 5: 25, saying: **"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of Elohim; and those who hear shall live."** Rav Shaul also confirmed this in 1 Thessalonian 4: 16 (quoted earlier). The point is that the dead cannot 'hear' unless they are first restored to life. They are pictured throughout the Scriptures as being asleep in their graves, awaiting the day of the resurrection. Notice Yahshua's words when describing the death of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, in John 11: 11 – 14, as follows: **'This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep." (12) The disciples therefore said to Him, "Master, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." (13) Now Yahshua had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. (14) Then Yahshua therefore said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."** Death is pictured as a sleep. Death, like sleep is a condition in which people are not conscious and from which they shall be awakened. We also read evidence of the resurrection from the Tanach in Daniel 12: 2, in this way: **'And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.'** Death is described as a sleep dozens of times in the Scriptures when referring to the kings of Israel and Judah, one of which is found in 1 Kings 2: 10, in this way: **'Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.'** Notice that it does not say 'the body slept while the soul was conscious.' It plainly states **'David slept.'** It was the conscious person who fell 'asleep' in death showing clearly that the dead are not conscious and that they do not have conscious 'immortal souls'.

Yahshua came to show us how we will ultimately like Him become children of Elohim as Shaul testifies in Romans 8: 28 – 29. Saying: **'And we know that Elohim causes all things to work together for good to those who love Elohim, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.'** King David who knew Elohim's plan of salvation knew this when He wrote in Psalm 17: 15, saying: **'As for me. I shall behold Thy face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Thy likeness when I awake.'** We also see that Yochanan, Messiah's disciple witnessing to this in 1 John 3: 2, saying: **'Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.'** After Adam and Eve sinned they were not permitted to eat of the tree of life, to prevent them from living eternally as sinners, as witnessed in Genesis 3: 22 & 23, as follows: **'Then YHVH Elohim said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing**

*good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”--- (23) therefore YHVH Elohim sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.”* The ‘tree of life’ symbolized the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim; Adam and Eve could have eventually gained eternal life and become spirit beings by eating of the fruit of the ‘tree of life’. But, by taking from the ‘tree of knowledge of good and evil’ and disobeying Elohim’s commandment, he was not allowed to take of the ‘tree of life’ to live forever, yet another proof that man does not have eternal life inherent within himself.

Those in Christianity who believe they have immortal souls, use Philippians 1: 23 & 24 as proof. Let’s therefore read these verses to see what Rav Shaul meant, as follows: ***‘But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Messiah, for that is very much better; (24) yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.’*** Rav Shaul clearly showed that he has a desire to be with Messiah. In fact all believers should have the same desire, but this verse does not state when Rav Shaul would be with Messiah, even if some try to read their ideas into it. We see that Rav Shaul knew exactly when he will one day be with Messiah, when he wrote in 2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, saying: ***‘For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; (8) in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.’*** The prophet Isaiah wrote about the time when Messiah will bring His reward with Him in Isaiah 40: 10, saying: ***‘Behold, Adonai Elohim will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.’*** Those who are dead in their graves are not conscious and have no knowledge of passing time. The very next moment of their consciousness will be the time of the resurrection. That is what Rav Shaul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5: 9 – 10, saying: ***‘Therefore also we have as our ambition (whilst we are alive), whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. (10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.’*** Yes, we will only receive our reward at the judgment when Messiah returns. That is also when Rav Shaul expected to receive the reward of his labors and to be with Messiah, as is confirmed in 2 Timothy 4: 1, in this way: ***‘I solemnly charge you in the presence of Elohim and of Messiah Yahshua, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.’***

To summarize then, we as Nazarene Israelites believe that according to 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 human beings are composed of bodies, souls and spirits. Jews who always remained faithful to YHVH and His Torah obtain the Set-apart Spirit because of obedience (as per Acts 5: 32). We who are called by YHVH to return to Him through Abraham’s one seed, Yahshua, are given a portion of Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit when we repent of past lawlessness and are immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, accepting that His death removed the record of our transgressions. The Set-apart Spirit combines with the spirit in man and we like our Torah observant Jewish Brothers are begotten anew. This gives us the opportunity to like Yahshua be resurrected at His return, as is confirmed in Romans 8: 11, as follows: ***‘But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.’*** When we are immersed into Yahshua’s saving name we are given a deposit of our inheritance of eternal life, as we read from Ephesians 1: 13 & 14, in this way: ***‘In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation –having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Set-apart Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of Elohim’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.’*** When we die our bodies and souls are buried and our spirits goes back to the Father who gave it, as is also confirmed in Ecclesiastes 12: 7, in this way: ***‘Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it.’*** Whilst our spirits are in heaven, it will be perfected as we read from Hebrews 12: 23, as follows: ***“to the general assembly and the congregation of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to Elohim, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.”*** When Yahshua returns He will bring back our perfected spirits and will

resurrect our bodies and souls. Our imperishable bodies and souls will merge with our perfected spirits from heaven and we will become kings and priests under Yahshua during His Millennial rule.

Man is mortal with a temporary life and has no eternal life inherent within himself. But YHVH entered into a two-fold covenant with the commonwealth of Israel, Abraham's children through Isaac and Jacob, that if they remain obedient to His Torah teachings, including circumcising their children as a sign of the covenant, they will inherit eternal life. The second part of the covenant specifically catered for those of us from the house of Israel who were scattered into the world through idolatry. Once we return to the covenant with Elohim through Yahshua, we become heirs of Abraham, making it possible to once again receive the gift of immortality and eternal life at the resurrection of the dead. Will you qualify to receive His gift?

### **Sabbath October 07: 'What is man's destiny?'**

Very few people alive today realize that there is more to this life than what most believe or think. Don't you ever wonder about the purpose for mankind to be on earth? What is our ultimate destiny? The theory of evolution claims to show the 'pre-history' of mankind and how we came into being, but it failed dismally to show any purpose for man's existence. Most religious leaders have no idea, when it comes to answering these important questions and scientist desire to determine and understand the purpose of life.

Christianity and most other religions believe 'heaven' to be the reward of the saved, and as a result billions of people came to believe this falsehood. But most have never given much thought to what they will do when they get there. To them eternal life is depicted as an imaginary paradise awaiting

those who pass the so-called 'pearly gates', to enter a never ending rest, beholding the face of Elohim. But if that is truly the reward of the saved, many elderly retired people already know its boredom, frustration and unhappiness. About 3000 years ago, king David asked these same questions in Psalm 8: 3 & 4, saying: ***"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; (4) what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for Him?"*** Rav Shaul gives us the answer to these questions in Hebrews 2, where he tells us about the questions King David asked in Psalm 8, but also continues to give us the answer in the second part of verse 8 to verses 11, saying: ***'For in subjecting all things to him (lower case h, meaning mankind), He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.'*** Rav Shaul was further inspired to write about man's awesome destiny in Romans 8: 16 & 17, saying: ***'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.'*** Elohim intends that mankind should eventually inherit the universe with Yahshua the Messiah.

Because Yahshua Messiah overcame during His 'human life' and was born again by the resurrection, He is presently seated on His Father's throne, as He told Yochanan in Revelation 3: 21, saying: ***'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.'*** We see the reverse of what we read earlier in Hebrews 2: 8 happening to Yahshua right now in 1 Peter 3: 22, in this way: ***'Who is at the right hand of Elohim, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.'*** We see from Revelation 19: 16 what Messiah's title will be when He returns to earth one day soon, as follows: ***'And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND MASTER OF MASTERS.'*** We see further about Yahshua's reign from Isaiah 9: 7, in this way: ***'There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace.'*** Rav Shaul also witness how great the authority Messiah already inherited is, in Hebrews 1: 1 – 2, saying: ***'Elohim, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.'*** But, from what we have read so far, we understand that if we have become true Believers, we are now the spirit-begotten "children" of Elohim and are joint-heirs with Yahshua Messiah to inherit everything YHVH has created! The awesome destiny of mankind is rulership of the entire vast universe with Yahshua Messiah. But not until we have qualified and been "born again" as sons of Elohim. Thus far only Yahshua Messiah, the ***"firstborn among many brethren"*** (Romans 8: 29), has received this power. He alone has received the power and glory we shall receive when we too, are born of Elohim at the resurrection. Are you beginning to grasp the enormity of these promises of Elohim?

As our Savior and elder brother Yahshua Messiah, ***"the firstborn among many brethren"*** has already qualified for the highest office under Elohim the Father in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. No one else can ever receive the position of rulership the Father has promised Him. However, certain other individuals have also been promised particular positions of responsibility in Elohim's Kingdom. We read firstly about the promise to Abraham from Romans 4: 13, in this way: ***'For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.'*** Abraham's children through Isaac and Jacob who remained loyal to the covenant they made with the Father at Mount Sinai, namely Torah observant Jews, will inherit the Promised Land eternally. But those of us from the lost ten tribes who came to believe

that we are Gentiles only in the secondary sense, since we still have a little Israelite blood in our veins and are Gentiles who are called by Elohim's name, i.e. Israelites (as identified by Acts 15: 17) and are now being called to return to the covenant we made with YHVH, through Abraham's one seed Yahshua, become Abraham's heirs according to the promise once again, as witnessed in Galatians 3: 7 – 9, 13 – 16 and 27 – 29, as follows: ***'Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. (8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU."*** (9) ***So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. (13) Messiah redeemed us from the curse (or punishment due to us for our sins) of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" – (14) in order that in Messiah Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (similar to the way Brother Judah gets it through obedience). (15) Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. (16) Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to His seed, He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Messiah. (27) For all of you who were immersed in Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. (29) And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.'***

After King Saul rebelled against Elohim, YHVH made Jesse's son David king over the united Israel, as is confirmed in 2 Samuel 7: 8, in this way: ***"Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says YHVH of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel.'"*** We also see from verses 15 & 16 that King David's throne will be established eternally, as follows: ***"But My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (16) And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."*** We see further from a prophecy about Messiah's millennial rule that King David will once again rule over both houses of Israel in the Kingdom of Elohim in Ezekiel 37: 21 – 24, as follows: ***"And say to them, 'Thus says YHVH Elohim, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; (22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. (23) And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their Elohim. (24) And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them.'"*** Elohim first anointed Saul to be king over Israel, because the people wanted a human king to rule over them. If King Saul yielded to Elohim and obeyed His Commandments and overcame the temptations of the flesh, he would have qualified to hold the same office in the Kingdom of Elohim during the millennium. However, Saul rebelled against Elohim and did not repent, thereby disqualifying himself from maintaining his position. This was when Elohim chose David, a man after His own heart, to rule in place of Saul. Even though David also made some serious mistakes and sinned shamefully against Elohim, his repentance was very sincere and he acknowledged that he was to blame for it, and he promised to obey Elohim from the heart in future. He strove to overcome and qualified to rule in Elohim's Kingdom. No one else can receive the office of king over Israel, because David is promised that function.

In addition to King David, we see that Yahshua also promised rulership positions in the Kingdom of Elohim to His disciples in Matthew 19: 27 - 29, in this way: ***'Then Kepha answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" (28) And***

**Yahshua said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.”** The apostles will rule over each of the twelve tribes of Israel under King David. Obviously Judas Iscariot failed to qualify for his position, and Yahshua chose another man, Matthias, to replace him (as recorded in Acts 1: 15 – 26). In addition to these, many other overcomers mentioned in Scripture have qualified for specific responsibilities in Elohim’s ruling family, but these positions will only be made available after Messiah’s return. We also read from 1 Corinthians 6: 1 – 3 that we the modern day believers should already in this life learn to judge, as follows: **‘Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? (2) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters in this life?’** Each one of Elohim’s spirit-begotten children is busy qualifying for a position of great responsibility under Yahshua Messiah in the Kingdom of Elohim. These positions are the rewards Elohim will bestow on those of us who eventually qualify, in addition to the gift of eternal life (as per Romans 6: 23). However, to receive a reward, each of us must overcome our own human natures, Satan and the world, but also develop our abilities to judge and rule during this age.

In order to avoid any confusion regarding the “rewards” and the “gifts” YHVH promised to give His children, let’s notice the difference between them. Most working people understand the word “reward” when an employee is “rewarded” with a bonus for outstanding work, or when a citizen earns a “reward” for supplying information to the police which lead to the arrest of a criminal. Most people also understand when a parent gives a child a gift. But why is it, that when it comes to what we read from the Scriptures regarding these two terms, people get confused? We are given the reason in Revelation 12: 9, in this way: **‘And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.’** Since Satan has led Adam and Eve astray in the Garden of Eden, he is diligently working to deceive the rest of mankind, keeping them confused about Elohim’s plan and purpose for mankind. As a result the majority of professing believers confuse the gift of eternal life with the rewards Yahshua will bring His true followers at His return. We read firstly from Romans 6: 23 what the gift of Elohim is for those who return to Him through Yahshua Messiah, as follows: **‘For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Messiah Yahshua our Master.’** Continuing in Ephesians 2: 7 – 9 we learn that Elohim’s gift of eternal life comes by His grace and favor, in this way: **‘In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Yahshua. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim; (9) not as a result of works, that no one should boast.’** Yes, there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it.

The question then is: How do we as returning Israelites qualify for Elohim’s mercy, favor and pardon? We read the answer from Acts 2: 36 – 39, as follows: **“Therefore let all the house of Israel (all ten tribes, excluding the house of Judah) know for certain that Elohim has made Him both Master and Messiah—this Yahshua whom you crucified (because of disobedience to Elohim’s Torah teachings). (37) Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do? (38) And Kepha said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHVH our Elohim shall call to Himself.”** The phrase far off comes from Daniel’s prayer in Daniel 9: 7, where he referred to the house of Israel as the ones who are driven far away in all the countries where YHVH has driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds they have committed against Him. We are also told in Romans 6: 14 – 16 how to remain within Elohim’s mercy, grace and pardon, in this way: **‘For sin shall not be master over you, for you**

*are not under law, but under grace.* (15) ***What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!*** (16) ***Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*** Understanding that the phrase “under the Law” means being subject to the Torah’s penalties, allows this verse to make sense to us as Nazarene Israelites. If you are truly led by Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit you are not subject to the Torah’s penalties and will not be led to disobey Elohim and be cursed. Rather, if you are truly led by the Spirit, you will naturally obey our Heavenly Father and His commandments and be blessed—as the Torah also tells us. We read further from 1 John 3: 22, as follows: ***‘And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.’*** The terms and conditions for coming within and remaining in Elohim’s grace, by which He makes the precious “gift” of eternal life available, are that we repent of our sins, accept Yahshua’s sacrifice for our sins, and then live a life of obedience to His spiritual laws, which are the way to true happiness and prosperity, as also witnessed in Hebrews 9: 15, in this way: ***‘And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.’***

Now, let’s get to understand what is meant by the phrase ‘reward’ according to the Scriptures. What our occupation, rank or position will be during Messiah’s millennium rule is a matter of the ‘reward’ we will receive at Messiah’s return, as Yahshua told His disciples in Matthew 16: 27, saying: ***“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.”*** Our “reward” depends on the zeal and effort we put forth during this present life as Nazarene Israelite believers after receiving Elohim’s Set-apart Spirit. The reward, our future position in the Kingdom of Elohim will be determined by our spiritual works. We see exactly how the rewards Elohim has in store for His children differ from His gift in 1 Corinthians 3: 13 – 16, in this way: ***‘Each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. (14) If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.’*** We need to understand that each man will be rewarded according to his own work. Our reward, then, is something we earn. It is payment given to the man who earns it by his work. The truth of the matter is that we might even lose most of our reward and still receive eternal life by Elohim’s grace, as witnessed in 1 Corinthians 3: 15 above. The reward of the saved is therefore not the same thing as the gift of eternal life. Rewards will be paid to those who will have already received the ‘gift’ of eternal life. Consequently what are required is not grace or works, but grace and works. Grace will get us into Elohim’s Kingdom and give us immortality as Elohim’s gift and works will earn us a better office, an opportunity for greater service, for doing more good, once we are born into Elohim’s Family.

We see from Romans 2: 6 – 10 that some will receive good rewards, whilst other will receive punishment according to their deeds, as follows: ***‘Who WILL RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS; (7) to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; (8) but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (9) There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, (10) but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.’*** Yes, some will even receive the ultimate punishment as their reward, namely death, as we read earlier from Romans 6: 23. Everyone has works, either good or bad. Those who do good works will receive good rewards, whilst those who do evil works will be punished, unless their evil deeds are repented of and covered by the blood of Messiah. Un-repent sinners will receive the wages for sin which they have earned, namely, death for all eternity. We see the principle of being rewarded for good and bad works also



revealed in the Tanach, as we read from Isaiah 3: 9 –11, in this way: ***‘The expression of their faces bears witness against them. And they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. (10) Say to the righteous that it will go well with them. For they will eat the fruit of their actions. (11) Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him.’*** Every person who is born of Elohim will receive exactly the same gift; eternal life and an eternal inheritance, but there will be different degrees of rewards given to the saved. Elohim promised to give rewards to both the small and the great, as Yahshua showed Yochanan in Revelation 11: 18, saying: ***“And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”*** Some Believers are worthy of greater rewards than others because they have produced greater spiritual works.

In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13: 3 – 8 Yahshua shows that some believers will bring forth more fruit than others, in this way: ***‘And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; (4) and as he sowed, some seeds fell besides the road, and the birds came and ate them up. (5) And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. (6) But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (7) And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. (8) And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”*** Yahshua wants His followers to bring forth much and shows that we glorify our heavenly Father by the amount of fruit we bring forth in John 15: 5 – 8, saying: ***“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”*** Rav Shaul tells us in Romans 8: 9 & 10 how Messiah dwells in us, saying: ***‘However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he does not belong to Him. (10) And if Messiah is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.’*** Bearing good fruit involves spiritual works, and overcoming the works of the flesh. It involves letting Messiah live in us by means of the Set-apart Spirit, allowing us to bear the fruits of the Spirit in our lives mentioned in Galatians 5: 22 & 23, as follows: ***‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.’*** In Revelation 2: 26 & 27 Yahshua tells us what one of the greatest rewards is that He will give those who overcome to the end, saying: ***“And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.”*** In the Kingdom of Elohim there will be individuals having greater or lesser positions of authority and degrees of glory as Rav Shaul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15: 41 – 42, saying: ***‘There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. (42) So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body.’*** But every individual will have a great responsibility, a job function to perform, as an entirely new civilization must be built on earth and eventually throughout the universe, according to Elohim’s specifications.

These positions will be awarded to each Believer according to how much he grew and overcame spiritually in this life and how much good fruit he produced by his spiritual works. Each one will receive a job in Elohim’s Kingdom commensurate with the level of spiritual character he has developed in this life, as aptly explained in the parable of the minas in Luke 19. In this parable Yahshua pictures Himself as a young nobleman going to a far country (heaven) to receive a kingdom

and to return to earth (Luke 19: 11 & 12). But before He left, He delegated certain responsibilities to each of his ten servants (verse 13). These servants represent every converted true Believer to whom YHVH has given His Set-Apart Spirit. After He returned, having obtained the Kingdom, we see from verse 15, how He will judge His servants, as follows: ***“And it came about that when he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him in order that he might know what business they had done.”*** Each pound or ‘mina’ contained an amount of silver worth several dollars in today’s money. This money is a symbol of spiritual value and represents the spiritual capabilities and opportunities Elohim has given to each Believer to be used to serve others and to develop spiritual character during this age. We see from verses 16 - 19 that each servant will be awarded in direct proportion to the degree he developed and overcame. In this way: ***“And the first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ (17) And he said to him, “Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, be in authority over ten cities.’ (18) And the second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ (19) And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’”*** True Believers are the servants (or slaves) of Messiah as we’ve seen previously from Romans 6: 16. Some overcome more than others and accomplish more spiritual works with what they have been given and therefore develop more spiritual character than others. They will be given rulership over many cities during the Millennium, whilst others will have qualified to rule only a few cities. Each will be rewarded according to his works. The reward you receive whether great or small depends on you alone! It depends on how much effort you expend in overcoming and growing spiritually. It depends on whether you always willingly let Elohim mold you into His character image, or whether you tend to resist His correction. Finally we see from verses 20 – 24 of Luke 19, what will happen to those who fail to overcome and grow even a little, who fails to increase their spiritual usefulness and effectiveness, as follows: ***‘And another came, saying, ‘Master, behold your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; (21) for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.’ (22) He said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down, and reaping what I did not sow? (23) Then why did you not put the money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ (24) And he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’*** The slave who gained nothing in this present life; who did not have any good works and did not overcome or grow spiritually, was not given any position and even had what was previously entrusted to him taken away. Elohim gives us salvation so we may serve others, and if we do not qualify to serve, even the salvation we thought we had, will be taken away, as Yahshua confirmed in verse 26, saying: ***“I tell you, that to everyone who has shall more be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.”***

The Scriptures speaks a great deal about overcoming. We as Nazarene Israelites are specifically called to conform to the image of Elohim, Yahshua. Yahshua the Messiah came to show us the way to become children of Elohim and to assist us to return to the covenant we made with YHVH at Mount Sanai, as recorded in Hebrews 2: 17 & 18, as follows: ***‘Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to Elohim, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.’*** When Yahshua showed His disciples the way He walked or interpreted Torah for His followers in Matthew 5, He commanded His followers, true Believers, to become perfect in verse 48, saying: ***“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*** The word “be” in this verse should more correctly be translated “become.” Yahshua spoke of becoming perfect in character, a process which takes time. Each one of us has to overcome like Yahshua overcame and told His disciples in John 16: 33, saying: ***“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”*** Yahshua Messiah became perfect through the trials and tests of human experience. He overcame the temptations of the devil, His

flesh and the world around Him. In spite of opposition and temptation, He kept Elohim's commandments perfectly. In so doing He developed the perfection of spiritual character which enabled Him to become our Savior and elder brother. No one can overcome for you. Overcoming is something each person must do himself with the help of Yahshua Messiah living in him through the Set-Apart Spirit. And just as with Yahshua, our overcoming involves obedience to Elohim, service to others, personal sacrifice and struggle against sin. It requires putting forth effort to become the kind of spiritually minded person Elohim can use to rule the universe. By overcoming the pulls of the flesh, Satan and the world, we build the very character of Elohim. The more we overcome, the greater our character will become and the greater will be our reward. In Matthew 24: 45 - 47 Yahshua told His disciples that those who overcome to the very end, shall inherit Elohim's Kingdom and receive a reward, saying: ***"Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their (Spiritual) food at the proper time? (46) Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. (47) Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions."*** Yahshua will not be satisfied with just a little overcoming now and then. He desires continual, constant overcoming and the obedience it entails. There is never a time to let down or grow fainthearted.

Spiritual growth is the development of the very character of Elohim in us. We must gradually become more and more like Him in the way we act and do things. Elohim's character is the ability to discern what is right from wrong, choose what is right, and then do it regardless of pressures and circumstances to the contrary. It is the ability in a free moral agent to determine and direct one's own actions always in the right direction, which is the way of righteousness – the way of obedience to Elohim, of giving, serving, helping others. It is the way which produces real and eternal happiness. This kind of character must be developed in Believers through independent free choice, combined with learning, experience, trials and tests. In addition to commissioning his disciples to immerse and teach new believers throughout the world in Matthew 28: 18 - 20, we also read Messiah's instructions to Kepha but also to us in John 21: 15 – 17, saying: ***"Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Master; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My Lambs (meaning to teach the children in the congregation, with care)." (16) He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Master; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep (meaning to guide the men of the congregation to remain on course)." (17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Kepha was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Master, You know all things; You know that I love You." Yahshua said to him, "Tend My sheep (meaning to teach the ladies in the congregation with the same care as the children)." Rav Kepha knew exactly what Yahshua meant and therefore instructed us in 1 Peter 5: 1 – 3, saying: ***'Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd the flock of Elohim among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of Elohim; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness.'*** Elohim has set his called and chosen teachers in His congregation to feed the flock as witnessed in Ephesians 4: 12 & 13: ***"For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah."*** Elohim's teachers instruct, teach and council members of Elohim's congregation and through Messiah's discipleship program each believer is taught to 'grow' until he/she is ready to become a teacher him/herself, and to be born as the very sons and daughters of Elohim.***

We were all born to rule, to be a part of governing, teaching and guiding this world during the millennium rule of Messiah and beyond; to assist Elohim in ruling the entire universe for all eternity. That is the incredible destiny that Elohim offers to mankind. Each one of us needs to be preparing to eventually reach that goal. We need to evaluate our own lives and characters honestly, to see if we truly obey Elohim. The point is: If you suddenly had great power in your control to direct a major

city, would you be able to direct and exercise that power as you know Elohim would have used it? If you are currently directing the little powers in your control, such as your temper, your voice, your passions and emotions, and your comparatively small income, then you probably could be entrusted to properly control at least a slightly larger power. If you have not yet learned to control and constructively guide even these little powers Elohim has permitted you to use, then how could Elohim entrust you to handle awesome responsibilities in the Kingdom of Elohim? If you don't learn to be faithful even in the use of your present income, who will entrust to your care the true riches, and the great powers of Elohim? We need to ask Elohim for wisdom, knowledge and understanding so that you can rightly direct the comparatively little powers and responsibilities we now have. Ask Elohim for wisdom and help in properly exercising and using the abilities you've been given so you can be a faithful and productive servant. Strive to learn to be faithful over what Elohim has already given you, so that you may one day hear Messiah's words recorded in Matthew 25: 21, saying: ***'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'*** Praise the name of YHVH!

#### **Monday October 09 at 10.30am: 'What is the significance of the tallit we wear on the Sabbath?'**

Have you ever wondered why the tallit we wear on Sabbath is white. The practice of wearing a tallit or tallit-katan on the Sabbath has a deeper meaning for us who understand some of the deeper things of Torah. On the Sabbath and other Set-apart Days of Elohim, we wear a tallit that is white, as we want to express the symbolism of the white garments that we find in the Scriptures. We know that white is prophetic clothing that symbolizes the coming Messianic Kingdom.

But on the deeper level, it is a symbol of something Adam and Eve possessed in the Garden of Eden. Wearing a white tallit is not just for teachers, but for all members of the congregation of Elohim. Whereas men wear white tallit's, woman may wear white scarfs to cover their hair during prayer and worship services as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 9: 8, saying: ***'Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.'*** What does the Hebrew idiom mean? Does it mean we should wear white clothing every day, or is it speaking of something deeper? We read a quote from the **Zohar Book 3, 174B and 175A** (The Zohar being a sod level commentary of the Torah), as

follows: *'Come see. What did he see? He saw standing before him, the angel, and Rabbi Isaac said: What does this tell us? That every man who in this world does not wrap himself in the ceremonial garb and clothe himself there with, when he enters the other world, is covered with filthy garments. It is brought up for trial. Many of the garments prepared for man in this world, and he who does not acquire the garments of religious observance, is in the next world, clad with the garment which is known to the masters of Gey-Hinnom and woe to the man who is clad therein for he is seized by many officers of judgment and dragged down to Gey-Hinnom and therefore king Solomon cried aloud at all times, let thy garments be white.'* Now this statement from the Zohar is not foreign to those familiar with Yahshua's parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for His son in Matthew 22, where after those who had been invited to the wedding refused to come and eventually the king later told his slaves to go and invite all they can find in the streets, both evil and good. When the wedding hall was filled the king came to look over the wedding guests as recorded in verses 11 – 14, in this way: ***"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, (12) and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And he was speechless. (13) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* (14) *For many are called, but few are chosen."* But is there still a deeper meaning in this? Is there another garment that our white tallit is symbolic of? We read an explanation from Daniel 12: 10, as follows: ***"Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."*** Daniel tells us that many shall be purified, and made white. Does that mean they will have white skins? Not at all, since we find out that according to the Scriptures, the color white is symbolic of the Divine Nature of Elohim, also known as mercy transliterated as 'chessed' in Hebrew.**

Now let's find a few additional places in the Renewed Covenant where the word white is mentioned in regard to the coming Kingdom of Elohim. Commencing in Matthew 17 where Yahshua was transfigured before three of His disciples to show them what His resurrected body will look like, after His death on the annual Passover, we read from verses 1 – 9, in this way: ***'And six days later Yahshua took with Him Kepha and Yaa'cov and Yochanan his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. (2) And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. (3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (4) And Kepha answered and said to Yahshua, "Master, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (5) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (6) And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. (7) And Yahshua came to them and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." (8) And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Yahshua Himself alone. (9) And as they were coming down from the mountain, Yahshua commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead,"*** Yahshua's disciples had a glimpse of what He would look like after His resurrection, but also how they will also look after they have been resurrected in the coming Kingdom of Elohim. They saw Him standing with Moses and Elijah; the one representing Torah and the other the Prophets, and Yahshua being the middle pillar or the embodiment of Torah. The fact that they suggested to Him to build three tabernacles or sukkot for Him, Moses and Elijah, shows that the vision was symbolic of the Messianic Kingdom.

But we see this is also what Yahshua appeared like, when long after His resurrection and ascension to heaven, He appeared to Yochanan in a vision to show him what will take place before, during and after His return to rule the world from Jerusalem, as recorded by Yochanan in Revelation 1: 12 – 15, saying: ***'And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; (13) and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. (14) And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; (15) and His***

*feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.*’ Yahshua in addressing the seven ‘church’ eras during the past 2000 years since He ascended to heaven in Revelation 2 & 3, addresses the congregation in Sardis in verses 4 & 5 of Revelation 3, saying: **“But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. (5) He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”** He continues to address the congregation in Laodicea in verse 18, saying: **“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.”** The underlined words in verse 18 are almost the same wording Elohim used in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve realized that they had lost the garments that Elohim had given them at creation, and they saw they were naked. This was when Elohim asked them in Genesis 3: 11, saying: **“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”** In Revelation 3: 18, Yahshua advised the congregation in Laodicea (near the end of the 2000 years) to buy white garments from Him that they may put on clothes so that their shame will not be seen. That is exactly what Elohim did for Adam and Eve, since they lost their original garments of light. He gave them ‘garments’ of skin, to cover their nakedness, but which also resulted in them returning to the dust from which they were made. The word nakedness is dealing with the concept we know as sin, as with sin comes shame.

Moving on to Revelation 6: 9 – 11, we read about those who were killed because of their testimony to faith in the word of Elohim, as follows: **‘And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of Elohim, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; (10) and they cried out with a loud voice saying, “How long, O Adonai, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (11) And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.’** We read from Revelation 7: 9 about the sealing of the 144,000 from the nation of Israel, in this way: **‘After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands.’** Notice, they have palm branches in their hands, which is also indicative of the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot, which takes us back to Zechariah 14, where we see that during the millennium kingdom all nations will journey to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In verses 13 & 14 of Revelation 7, we see who this multitude mentioned in verse 9 of Revelation 7 is, as follows: **‘And one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?” (14) And I said to him, “My master, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”’** They are before the throne of Elohim and serve Him day and night in His Sukkah, and He shall dwell among them.

That is after all what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. In the Sukkah we experience the manifest presence of Elohim transliterated as His ‘*Shekinah*’. The quoted verses in Revelation 7 above tells us that this great multitude came out of great persecution and took their robes and dipped it in the blood of the Lamb and it came out white. We also see from verses 15 – 17, that they will be cared for by the Lamb, in this way: **“For this reason, they are before the throne of Elohim; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. (16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; (17) for the Lamb in the center of the throne, shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and Elohim shall wipe every tear from their eyes.”** Then to confirm that this is when Yahshua returns to rule the world from Jerusalem and to remarry His

bride made up of all twelve tribes of Israel, we read from Revelation 19: 5 - 7, as follows: ***‘And a voice came from the throne, saying. “Give praise to our Elohim, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” (6) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For Adonai our Elohim, the Almighty, reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”*** A wife, in order to make herself ready for marriage goes to the mikvah to cleanse her of any ritual impurity and then puts on her white wedding garments. When we come into the Sukkah, we come under the Chuppah. During the Millennial Kingdom, (YHVH)’s name shall be One (as per Zechariah 14: 9) and we are told that because of the Renewed (marriage) Covenant that He will enter into with both the house of Judah and the house of Israel (as per Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34), that all people, great and small will know Him, from the least of them to the greatest of them. We have gone through Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah), experienced the fast on the Day of Atonement transliterated as *‘Yom HaKippurim’*, have been cleansed and enter the Sukkah rejoicing with the bridegroom, as shown in Revelation 19: 8 & 9, in this way: ***‘And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) And he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”’ And he said to me, “These are true words of Elohim.”*** The marriage of the Lamb to His bride the commonwealth of Israel is the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Next we turn to the Tanach and read from 1 Chronicles 15: 25 – 29, as follows: ***‘So it was David, with the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands, who went to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHVH from the house of Obed-edom with joy*** (the Feast of Tabernacles is known as a season of Joy transliterated in Hebrew as *‘simcha’*). (26) ***And it came about because Elohim was helping the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of YHVH, that they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams*** (here we have again the cycle of seven). (27) ***Now David was clothed with a robe of fine linen with all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the singing with the singers. David also wore an ephod of linen. (28) Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of YHVH with shouting, and with sound of the horn, with trumpets, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps and lyres. (29) And it happened when the ark of the covenant of YHVH came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Shaul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and making merry; and she despised him in her heart.’*** We see here that because the presence of Elohim returned to the city of David, there was a great celebration. We hear the voice of the shofar and cymbals being played. It is important that we really understand what Sukkot is about. We continue to read in the Tanach from 2 Chronicles 6: 37 – 41, in this way: ***‘If they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to Thee in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, and have acted wickedly’; (38) if they return to Thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which Thou hast given to their fathers, and the city which Thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Thy name, (39) then hear from heaven, from Thy dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Thy people who have sinned against Thee. (40) Now, O my Elohim, I pray Thee, let Thine eyes be open, and Thine ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. (41) Now therefore arise, O YHVH Elohim, to Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy might; let Thy priests, O YHVH Elohim, be clothed with salvation, and let Thy godly ones rejoice in what is good.’***

The priests were clothed with salvation in white linen garments that they wore in the Tabernacle. White is symbolic of our salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. We also read from Psalm 132: 7 – 9: ***‘Let us go into His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool. (8) Arise, O YHVH, to Thy resting place; Thou and the ark of Thy strength. (9) Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let Thy godly ones sing for joy.’*** In the Renewed Covenant the word ‘white’ is translated from the Greek word *‘lukos’*, the same word as the name Luke. Lukos not only means ‘Light, bright and

brilliant, brilliant for whiteness or dazzling white.’ White is also the garments of angels and those exalted to splendor of the heavenly state. Shining or white garments worn on festive or state occasions are a sign of innocence and purity of the soul (life). We also read from the **Talmud in section Yoma 19, A:** *‘The cell of hewn stone, there the Sanhedrin of Israel were sitting and judging the priest, Kohanim and whoever was found unfit for duty would be put on a black dress and wrap himself in black and go out and go his way. And one in whom no blemish was found, would put on a white garment and wrap himself in white enter the sanctuary and officiate with his brethren.’* Do you now see how important it is to wear a white garment of the Sabbath and Set-apart Days? Leviticus 13: 15 – 17 deals with the Torah of the leper. Notice that the leper who has been an outcast from society because of a skin disease is unable to enter into the sanctuary. He has to go to the priest, who shall examine the raw flesh and pronounce him to be unclean; since raw flesh is unclean, it is leprosy. Leprosy can also be symbolic of sin. But, if the flesh changes again and it is changed to white, he shall again go to the priest to be examined. If the priest sees the skin has turned white, then he shall pronounce the leper clean. So, we see raw flesh means one is unclean but if the flesh turns white again, he is pronounced clean. Raw flesh means he is naked and you can see his shame, but once it turns white again, he is clean.

We read from Isaiah 1: 16 - 18: ***“Wash yourselves*** (be immersed), ***make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil,*** (17) ***learn to do good*** (from Torah), ***seek justice, reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan, plead for the widow.*** (18) ***Come now, let us reason together,” Says YHVH, “though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”*** The color of raw flesh is red. Here YHVH tells us through the Prophet Isaiah that they shall become white if we return to Him; if we are willing to obey Him we shall partake of the good of the land. An interesting side light about Atonement: After the death of Yahshua the supernatural events which used to occur on Yom Kippur ceased to happen. Elohim’s rejection of the blood atonement available in the Temple through the High Priest became obvious when the red cord of wool, ceased to turn white on Yom Kippur, after Yahshua’s impalement. The Talmud records the astonishing event that occurred approximately forty years before the destruction of the Temple by Titus’ army in 70 CE in **Tractate Yoma 39, B**, which was the approximate time of Yahshua’s death on the cross, as follows: *‘Forty years before the Holy Temple was destroyed the following things happened: The lot for the Yom Kippur goat ceased to be supernatural; the red cord of wool that used to change to white (as a symbol of God’s forgiveness) now remained red and did not change and the western candle in the candlestick in the sanctuary refused to burn continually while the doors of the Holy temple would open of themselves.’*

Moving on as part of our analogy, we need to mention the law of niddah. When a woman is niddah, her husband is not to have any type of physical relations with her. When the period of her niddah comes to an end, she is to examine herself for seven days, which had to pass without any further discharge and she becomes clean and may have contact with her husband again. If we take this deeper and we understand that when she examines herself for seven days, we arrive at the 7<sup>th</sup> Millennium, when she can be joined to her husband again. This pictures when Messiah will return on the seventh millennium to marry His bride. On the Sabbath the high priest wears four white garments. These four garments represent the four letters of the name of Elohim, namely: Y, H, V, H. The name YHVH represent mercy transliterated as ‘chessed’, or lovingkindness towards us. We are told that the white clothing worn by the priests is actually a manifestation of what the sages call the surrounding light and that light surrounds and permeates into our clothing. The priests were given white linen garments and turbans to reflect their glory and honor. They were to serve as a substitute garment until the resurrection of the body. The white linen garments were to be worn by the priest who was righteous and could be a servant in the dwelling place of Elohim. After Adam’s sin they were given coats of skin. The skin they were given is good for the body, but not for the soul (life). Since they were unfit to serve as priests within the Garden of Eden, which environment the Tabernacle was to recreate, in order to allow the Presence of Elohim to dwell there and as a result of



Adam's sin mankind was given a garment of skin, but those in the first resurrection will be given garments of light which is indicative of eternal life. The tallit is a temporary replacement and symbolic garments to show our fitness for the priesthood. This is why we wear head coverings and the tallit. All these were given to us by Elohim as temporary symbolic substitutes, or a shadow of things to come, until the reality manifests.

We read from the **Zohar book 2, 229 B**: *'Observe that man's Neshamah (the spirit in man) does not ascend to appear before the holy king unless she is first worthy to be attired in supernal raiment, likewise the Neshamah does not descend into this world, until clad in the garments of this world. Similarly, the holy heavenly Angels of whom it is written: Who maketh thy angels into wind and thy ministers unto flaming fire. When they have to execute a message in this world they do not come down to it until they clothe themselves in the garments of this world (the attire has to always be in harmony with the place visited). The Neshamah can only ascend when it is clad in the right raiment. Adam in the Garden of Eden was attired in supernal raiment of celestial radiance, As soon as he was driven from the Garden of Eden and had need of form to be suited to this world, scripture says, YHVH Elohim made for Adam and his wife garments of skin and clothed them. Formerly they were garments of light. To wit of the celestial light of which Adam ministered, so he was a priest, he ministered, served, he was to keep and guard it as a priest. He was to keep and guard the Garden of Eden. For as much as it was resplendence of the celestial light that ministers in the Garden of Eden. When first man entered into the garden, the holy one, blessed is He. Clothed him first in the raiment of that light (this explains why the Priests had to wear white linen garments when they went to do their service in the tabernacle or the temple. It was another Garden of Eden.)'* We do not wear the tallit that we wear on the Sabbath on the other six days of the week. So here they also made residue garments to minister in the holy place so as to enable the wearer to enter the sanctuary.

Now we have already been taught, that a man's good deeds done in this world draw from the celestial splendour of that light garment with which he may be endowed with in the next world when he comes to appear before Elohim. Man's soul is dust and his spirit is clothed in raiment of the lower world. The spirit in those who remained close to Elohim is also clothed with the heavenly world, or the Set-apart Spirit of Elohim, provided they remain Torah observant throughout their lives, as confirmed in Luke 10: 25 – 28, in this way: **'And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (26) And He said to Him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" (27) And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (28) And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE.'** The remnant of the lost sheep of Israel being called out of the religions of this world, to return to Elohim through Messiah and who are immersed in His Set-apart name are similarly clothed with the heavenly world (namely the Set-apart Spirit), also giving them access to the world to come, as confirmed in Romans 8: 11, as follows: **"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you."**

In the book of Revelation we read that the white raiment is the righteous deeds of the set-apart ones. There is no conflict or contradictions of what was written in the Zohar and what was written in the book of Revelation. Throughout the Scriptures it is talking about the garment of salvation and righteousness. Righteousness is right living, right deeds and right actions. There is an imputed righteousness we receive when we wash those garments in the blood of the Lamb, but there is a walking out of that righteousness in Him. Walk with Him and you shall put on white raiment and serve as His priests in His dwelling place before His throne for ever. Amein!

**Tuesday October 10 at 10.30am: 'Torah the garment of the soul.'**

Most of us who have been studying the Scriptures for a number of years, know that mankind consist of three component parts, namely; body, soul (transliterated in Hebrew as '*Nefesh*') and the spirit in man (transliterated as '*Neshamah*'). The Hebrew word '*Nefesh*' simply means life and '*Neshamah*' means the higher level life or the spirit in man which is his mind power giving him the ability to speak, think and make decisions. However, like all created beings, such as animals, fish and birds, mankind is mortal subject to death. But, different to them, the spirit in man also records his actions, experiences and character in his memory as a testimony to his life – to be used to resurrect him to life again, sometime in the future.

When YHVH started dealing with Abraham, He promised him and his descendants eternal life, provided they remain obedient to His teachings which He imparted to Abraham over a period of time, but especially after He entered into a covenant with Abram in Genesis 17 telling him that if he walks before Him blamelessly, He will multiply his seed exceedingly and make him the father of a multitude of nations. He also told Abraham after He changed his name that He will give him and his descendants the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession (meaning they will eventually live in it forever), if they obey Him and as a sign to the covenant circumcise the male children at eight days

old. Therefore the children of Israel, Abraham's offspring through Isaac and Jacob, will obtain eternal life if they obey the covenant that YHVH later made with them at Mount Sinai after leading them out of Egypt, provided they always remain obedient to His Torah teachings. In addition, the promise even catered for those children whom YHVH eventually scattered into the nations of the world because of idolatry, in that He promised Abraham that He will finally during the last days bring a remnant of them back to the covenant they made with Him, together with the house of Judah at Mount Sinai, through Abraham's one seed Yahshua, through whom he would also save the rest of mankind during the Great White Throne judgment period. The main component that imparts eternal life to Abraham's offspring is the Set-apart Spirit, which they obtained by being obedient to Elohim's Torah as witnessed in Acts 5: 32<sup>2</sup>. For the house of Judah the word obedience means to obey and live according to Elohim's Torah, but for the house of Israel, it means to be immersed in Yahshua's saving name for the forgiveness of past Torah breaking and the gift of the Set-apart Spirit, after which both houses need to remain faithful to the end, to retain the Set-apart Spirit, giving them access to eternal life. We read in this regard from Deuteronomy 30: 19 & 20, as follows: ***"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, (20) by loving YHVH your Elohim, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which YHVH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give them."*** So we see that Torah is (YHVH)'s will and wisdom revealed to Israel.

Yes, Torah is Elohim's eternal instructions to all Israel and is a guideline to keep us from sin as is also defined in the Renewed Covenant in 1 John 3: 4, in this way: ***'Everyone who practices sin, also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.'*** The fact is, that Torah keeps us within the boundaries that YHVH decreed as commands, but also help us to show self-control over our fleshly desires and lusts as we allow the Set-apart Spirit to guide us into all truth – which is according to John 17: 17 and Psalm 119: 142 Torah. Even so, the commandments are designed and purposed by Elohim for a deeper meaning. The purpose for studying Elohim's Word is to obtain understanding of His will and to learn to live by His Word. In addition YHVH expects those who diligently study His Word to take action as recorded in Hebrews 4: 11 – 13, as follows: ***'Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience. (12) For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.'*** The Scriptures also tells us in Hebrews 11: 6, ***'And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.'*** Our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as the prophets and apostles all experienced the reality of Elohim in a personal way. In ancient times Elohim established personal contact with certain chosen people, as we read from Exodus 3: 2 – 4, ***'And the angel of YHVH appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (3) So Moses said, "I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."*** (4) ***When YHVH saw that he turned aside to look, Elohim called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."***

Elohim appeared to Moses and later revealed His divine words, which Moses carefully recorded for future generations, as we read from the first part of Exodus 24: 4, in this way: ***'And Moses wrote down all the words of YHVH.'*** Elohim whom Moses encountered was the Elohim Abraham had a personal conversation with in Genesis 18. Initially Moses was fearful in the presence of Elohim, but later he overcame his fear and asked to see Elohim personally as is recorded in Exodus 33: 18. Today

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<sup>2</sup> Acts 5: 32, ***"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Set-apart Spirit, whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him."***

there are many who do not know who and what Elohim is. The prophet Hosea expressed sorrow because the house of Israel had willingly lost knowledge about Elohim with tragic consequences for them, in Hosea 4: 1 – 6, saying: ***“Listen to the word of YHVH, O sons of Israel, for YHVH has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of Elohim in the land. (2) There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. (3) Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; and also the fish of the sea disappear. (4) Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. (5) So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. (6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.”*** But as we are assured by Rav Shaul in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 & 24 that those of us whom YHVH called; who were immersed into Yahshua’s saving name and had hands laid upon us by the elders of Elohim’s congregation; and accordingly received a portion of the Set-apart Spirit will if they remain faithful to the end, be preserved blameless at Messiah’s return, saying: ***‘Now may the Elohim of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, (24) Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.’***

Although Elohim is Spirit and therefore eternal, the prophet Isaiah wrote about Him in Isaiah 57: 15, saying: ***‘For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite (remorseful).”*** To further support of Elohim’s willingness to forgive us, Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 55: 6 & 7, saying: ***‘Seek YHVH while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. (7) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to YHVH, and He will have compassion on him; and to our Elohim, for He will abundantly pardon.’*** Even though YHVH inhabits eternity and is not constraint by time and space, He is quick to forgive those who return to Him and His Torah teachings with a repentant attitude. YHVH specifically sent Yahshua, the image of the invisible Elohim to the house of Israel, to reconcile them to Him, but also to Brother Judah. The reason for so doing is because the house of Israel was always prone to idol worship, since they cannot like Judah worship an invisible Elohim. This is perhaps why Jeremiah wrote fittingly in Jeremiah 10: 1 & 2, saying: ***‘Hear the word which YHVH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) Thus says YHVH, “Do not learn the way of the nations, and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them.”*** Because YHVH is all knowing, He knew that Israel will eventually forsake Him and as a result He will scatter them throughout the nations of the world. This is why He told Jacob that his offspring Israel will become a multitude of nations in Genesis 48: 19, but also why He foretold through Moses in Deuteronomy 4: 25 – 31, saying: ***‘When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of YHVH your Elohim so as to provoke Him to anger, (26) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you shall surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but shall be utterly destroyed. (27) And YHVH will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where YHVH shall drive you. (28) And there you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. (29) But from there you will seek YHVH your Elohim, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. (30) When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to YHVH your Elohim and listen to His voice. (31) For YHVH your Elohim is a compassionate Elohim; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.’*** However, Isaiah informs us that only a comparatively small number of members of the house of Israel will eventually return to YHVH during this age, in Isaiah

10: 22, saying: ***'For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant within them will return; a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.'***

The Torah commandments are one way that YHVH established to make contact and have a relationship with His people Israel. We need to understand that between people, any personal contact or relationship of unequal status or stature creates a sense of elevation in the meaning of the life of the person of lower status; therefore how much more can we benefit and gain knowledge of our true purpose and the meaning of life from our relationship with YHVH by Torah observance. The word commandment transliterated in Hebrew is *'mitsvah'* but it also means companionship or even union. Therefore, one who fulfills or keeps a commandment becomes united in, or companionship with the very essence of Elohim, who has ordained this principle in Torah. We read accordingly from Jeremiah 7: 22 & 23: ***"For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. (23) But this is what I commanded them saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you."*** Obeying and living a Torah way of life gives to the person a higher existence and also places the Commander and commanded in a mutual relationship. It allows them to have communion or fellowship with one another as Yochanan also testified in 1 John 1: 6 – 7, saying: ***'If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (Torah); (7) but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yahshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.'*** The Torah is Elohim's will revealed to all twelve tribes of Israel. It is the essence of His will and wisdom and forms a single oneness, since He is One with His word. Elohim put all His wisdom and will into the 613 commandments of Torah and it became flesh and dwelt among us (as per John 1: 14). Yahshua our Rabbi and Messiah was the living incarnation of the Torah, will and wisdom of YHVH. Therefore when we obey and live by the commands of Torah, we become one with His will and wisdom, as Yahshua indicated in His prayer in John 17: 20 & 21, saying: ***"I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me."***

The divine will and wisdom of YHVH can be clothed in material things, through the material objects that we use to remind us to obey His Torah teachings, such as tzitzit, tefillin and the mezuzah, as witnessed in Acts 19: 11 & 12, in this way: ***'And Elohim was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Shaul, (12) so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.'*** These material objects that He commands us to use to remind us to obey Him, even though it seems far removed from His Being, can join us to Him and we can experience His presence. The union with Elohim is not affected by their materiality, because it is like embracing Him, when we obey Him, as witnessed in the portion of the Shema we say recorded in Deuteronomy 11: 20 & 21, as follows: ***"And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, (21) so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which YHVH swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth (meaning eternally)." Wow, do you grasp that – if we obey the command of writing Elohim's commandments on the doorposts and gates of our homes, we will inherit the Promised Land eternally with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Do you believe that, or are you trying to spiritualize it away like our Christian brothers are doing? How does this union between us and Elohim take place through obeying and studying Torah? To understand this, we need to understand the relationship between YHVH, Israel and Torah. The Three are joined as One, Israel, the Torah and YHVH, but all on different levels of spirituality. They cannot be separated from one another and are linked like rings in a chain. This union with YHVH actually exists in the soul of every Nazarene Israelite and like-minded believer, because they know Yahshua the Messiah.***

From this we can conclude that Torah is the garment or food of our souls and just as physical food and clothing are necessary for the wellbeing of a person, so are the spiritual food and clothing provided by Torah necessary for the wellbeing of our souls or the spirits in us. It is as we read from Deuteronomy 8: 3, in this way: ***“And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHVH.”*** When Yahshua taught His disciples (and by implication us His modern day disciples) in the model prayer to ask our heavenly Father for our daily bread in Matthew 6: 11, He did not only speak about material food for our bodies, but also Torah to feed the Set-apart Spirit that YHVH gave us to unite with the spirit in us and ultimately to give us access to eternal life, provided we remain in touch with Him through His word. Because of this understanding of ‘food’ one should begin to understand the purpose of the command of Kashrut, Matzos and the lessons YHVH is teaching us by its observance. This also help us understand why YHVH was angry when the Israelites rejected the manna He provided daily, except on the Sabbath and wanted flesh to eat to satisfy their lust for flesh instead of the bread of life! This is a picture of those Israelites who reject the Torah of YHVH and would rather listen to and partake of the teachings of men. Therefore the study of Torah is the same as ‘food’ for the spirit of man that will eventually provide him with eternal life. We need to understand that when our intellect ‘ingests’ a certain portion of Torah or perform a particular command, it encompasses Divine Wisdom which becomes food for the spirit which is so closely intertwined with our souls, that it reflects the Set-apart Spirit in us. We become one with Torah as it is absorbed into our lives. That is when we become conformed to the image of Elohim, Yahshua, since He is the embodiment of Torah and the incarnation of the Wisdom and Will of Elohim, as witnessed in Colossians 2: 2 & 3, as follows: ***‘That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding resulting in a true knowledge of Elohim’s mystery, that is , Messiah Himself, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.’***

We read Yahshua’s words in John 6: 53 – 58, where He said in a Synagogue in Capernaum: ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. (54) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. (56) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (57) As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. (58) This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever.”*** Yahshua was in fact not speaking about ‘communion’ with bread and wine as taught by Christian churches, but about Torah, since He was Torah in flesh and blood and was the very life for the spirits of the people of the house of Israel. The Jewish sages teach that the Torah scroll may be destroyed but its spirit is immortal and cannot be destroyed as much as YHVH is immortal. This is exactly what the Set-apart Spirit will quicken in us at the resurrection to bring the righteous dead back alive from the grave. It is for this very reason that we read from Deuteronomy 32: 45 - 47, ***‘When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, (46) he said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law. (47) For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you shall prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”’*** The spirit in man has three forms of expression; namely thoughts, speech and deeds. These are the garments through which his life is expressed or clothed. When we observe the commandments in our deeds, and study, discuss and teach Torah through speech, and grasp all the deep things of Torah that our minds or intellect can grasp by thought, then the spirit and soul (or life) of man become clothed in the garment of Torah and are united with Elohim. The person’s life is raised beyond its natural status. It is like being clothed in royal garments. Just as a person’s physical garments may grant him prestige beyond his nature, so the observance of Torah clothes us with spiritual garments that raise our status spiritually.

As much as garments in the natural can be taken off and changed because of defilement; in like manner the Torah may change the garments of our speech, thoughts and deeds, which are under control of the mind or intellect of a person. It is for this reason that Rav Shaul wrote in Romans 13: 12, saying: ***'The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.'*** Rav Shaul further taught the Ephesians in Ephesians 4: 22 – 25, saying: ***'That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of Elohim has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Torah). (25) Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.'*** Recall now the chain – Israel, Torah and YHVH. This chain connection allows the garments of heaven or the Set-apart Spirit to come down and clothe the spirit life of the Israelite. The Divine Soul descends via the Set-apart Spirit downward and clothes the life of man and he is clothed from on High, as we read from the first part of Psalm 132: 9, in this way: ***'Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness.'*** This is how YHVH is presently clothed, as we read from the first part of Psalm 104: 2, as follows: ***'Covering Thyself with light as with a cloak.'*** But this is also what Rav Shaul tells the Galatians in Galatians 3: 27, saying: ***'For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah.'*** The Scriptures are in perfect harmony and therefore teach us that our righteous or unrighteous deeds and words can clothe us with clean or defiled garments – it is not talking about literal physical clothes, but the spiritual garments of the soul.

As can be seen from Ezekiel 44: 18, the resurrected priests during the millennium will wear clean white garments, which is pictured as linen, the actual material of the priesthood in the Temple, as follows: ***"Linen turbans shall be on their heads, and linen undergarments shall be on their loins; they shall not gird themselves with anything that makes them sweat."*** We also read about the bride of Messiah from Revelations 19: 7 & 8, in this way: ***"Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." (8) And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.'*** It is interesting that Adam (the first priest) was originally clothed with garments of light as YHVH is clothed, but when he sinned he lost his garments of light and YHVH clothed him and Eve with skin, the garments which resulted in them to return to the dust from which they were made. The transliterated Hebrew word for naked is 'arom' which means to be partially clothed. After the fall of man he became totally naked and the transliterated Hebrew word 'erom' meaning totally naked was used. In Hebrew the word (רֹא) Ohr - 'alef-vav-resh' means light and (רֹא) also pronounced as Ohr - 'ayin-vav-resh' means skin. In Hebrew, following the rule of temurot (exchange of letters) - the 'alef' being replaced by an 'ayin' represent spiritual descent. The 'alef' is symbolic of Elohim Himself – the numerical value of 1 and the 'ayin' alludes to sin – transliterated as 'ayin-vav-nun' or 'avon'.

All the garments the priest wore had to be placed on the body over the head, showing that it came from YHVH above. These garments covered the priest's heart and vital organs and this is where YHVH places His Torah, as witnessed in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33 as follows: ***"Behold, days are coming," declares YHVH, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares YHVH. (33) But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHVH, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."*** The breaches or pants had to be lowered and pulled over the priest's nakedness – a type of sin. The garments of the priesthood provided Israel with a picture of the blueprint in heaven (Torah). Even today in synagogues the Torah scroll is clothed in a mantle, sash, breastplate and crown to represent the garments of the High Priest. As the congregants in the synagogue reach to touch or kiss the scroll during the Torah procession, we as Nazarene Israel have the knowledge that it is a representation of our High Priest,

Yahshua Messiah the living Torah. It was for this reason that David also wrote in Psalm 2: 12 (KJV), saying: ***'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.'*** Today the tallit and kippah serve the same purpose. The tzitzit symbolize the 613 commandments as we clothe ourselves in the Torah and (YHVH)'s name.

The connection or union with Elohim through the Torah and commandments mean for the Nazarene Israelites soul (life), what vitamins and nutrients and clothing mean for his body. As these physical elements sustain the body, Torah sustains the Set-apart Spirit which combines with the spirit in man because of obedience, and is reflected in the way he lives his life. It is the bread from heaven (since Yahshua is the embodiment of Torah). We cannot be like Ephraim of old and eat 'unclean' food from Assyria, as Hosea warns in Hosea 9: 3, saying: ***'They will not remain in (YHVH)'s land, but Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria they will eat unclean food.'*** The garments of the soul, the performance of the commandments, therefore enable one's spirit to take hold of Elohim. By donning the garments of Torah and the living Torah Yahshua, an Israelite becomes united with Elohim. In that way man's behavior can actually bring his live to a higher level that it can never achieve without Torah. Only by living and studying Torah does one clothe himself with Elohim's character. This is how we receive Yahshua the Messiah; we put Him on as a garment, since He is the living Torah. Our garments have become washed in His blood, cleansing us from our Torah breaking and as a result He has already made us to be priests to Elohim, as witnessed in Revelation 1: 5 & 6, in this way: ***'And from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever.'*** We need to understand that the true bride of Messiah consisting of both houses of Israel can only be a Torah observant people, who love the name of YHVH and clothed themselves in garments of Torah. It is also for this reason that Yahshua in the parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for his son concludes with the words recorded in Matthew 22: 11 – 14, saying: ***"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, (12) and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And he was speechless. (13) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness, in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*** (14) ***For many are called, but few are chosen."*** Think about it!

### **Wednesday October 11 at 10.30am: 'How important are Elohim's Feats Days to Him?'**

When YHVH brought Israel out of Egypt, He intended for them to be a model nation to the rest of the nations around them, as He told them through Moses His servant in Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 8, in this way: ***"And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, is giving you. (2) You shall not add to the word which I commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim which I am command you. (3) Your eyes have seen what YHVH has done in the case of Baal-peor, for all the men who followed Baal-peor, YHVH your Elohim has destroyed them from among you. (4) But you who held fast to YHVH your Elohim are alive today, every one of you. (5) See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as YHVH my Elohim commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. (6) So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'*** (7) ***For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is YHVH our Elohim whenever we call on Him? (8) Or what great nation is there that has Statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"*** Our forefathers were supposed to be an example to the nations around them; to show these nations that Elohim's way of life produces abundant blessings.



However, we know that the ancient Israelites failed YHVH and as a result of their unbelief, were not allowed to enter the land that YHVH promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as Rav Shaul wrote reminding us in Hebrews 3: 16 – 19, saying: ***‘For who provoked Him (YHVH) when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? (19) And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.’*** Similar to our forefathers YHVH is calling us out of our previous lives of sin (or our personal Egypt) to start following Him and to be an example to the rest of the people in the world. His purpose with us is similar to what it was for our ancient forefathers; ultimately He wants those whom He calls at this time to be first-fruits to qualify to enter the coming Kingdom of Elohim as kings and priests under Yahshua, but if we return to Elohim’s covenant through Yahshua at this time and be immersed into His saving name for the forgiveness of our sins, has released us as the lost sheep of the house of Israel from our sin and already made us a kingdom of priest to Elohim, as Yahshua showed Yochanan in Revelation 1: 4 – 6, in this way: ***‘Yochanan to the seven congregations that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne; (5) and from Yahshua Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, (6) and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His Elohim and Father; to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amein’*** Rav Kepha confirmed this in 1 Peter 2: 5 – 10, saying: ***‘You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. (6) For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” (7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” (8) and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE for Elohim’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE of Elohim; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.’*** Rav Yaa’cov also confirms our calling by the Father in James 1: 17 & 18, saying: ***‘Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. (18) In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first-fruits among His creatures.’***

Even though some believe that YHVH failed to make our ancient forefathers into an example for the rest of the world; in their failing Him, Rav Shaul tells us that they became examples to us their modern day descendants of what not to do in 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 11, saying: ***‘For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them Elohim was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things as they also craved. (7) And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY.” (8) Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty three thousand fell in one day. (9) Nor let us try YHVH, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.’*** It is therefore important for those of us called at this time,

to keep studying the Torah year after year, until Yahshua returns to rule the world from Jerusalem, as it will remind us not to follow the bad examples set by our ancient forefathers.

The problems with our forefathers started when Moses 'delayed' to come down from Mount Sinai. The Israelites were only a few months away from Egypt and the Egyptian way of worship was still fresh in their minds; so Aaron and the people decided to merge these Egyptian ways with the instructions they recently received from YHVH. Our forefathers started doing what many in Christianity are doing today; they blended the beliefs and practices of different religions of the world into worshipping their god. We also see from Exodus 32: 5, ***'Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it (the golden calf); and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to YHVH."*** As we've read from the quoted Scriptures in 1 Corinthians 10 above, Elohim was definitely not pleased with them, and we see His reaction, when He said to Moses in verses 7 & 8 of Exodus 32, ***"Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. (8) They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.'"*** Those of us called out of the world by Elohim should after a reasonable period of time be familiar with what He expects from us and not fall back into old religious practices. As a result of not listening to YHVH He took away their first-born priesthood and gave it to the tribe of Levi, who was prepared to kill three thousand of the rebels from amongst the Israelites that day.

But now that YHVH has redeemed us and made us a priesthood once again, as confirmed in Revelation 1: 6 (quoted earlier), He expects more from us. He has bestowed upon us the highest honor and is creating in us beings that are higher than angels, to rule the universe under Yahshua, as were read from Hebrews 2: 1 – 11, as follows: ***'For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, (3) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through YHVH, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, (4) Elohim also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Set-apart Spirit according to His own will. (5) For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. (6) But one has testified somewhere (King David in Psalm 8), saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? (7) THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAST APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; (8) THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."*** For in subjecting all things to him (lower case h – meaning mankind), ***He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author (or originator) of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.'***

Once we have come to understand Elohim's truth, we are required to obey Him; we also understand that the instructions and examples in His Word were written for our benefit and edification, as we read from Romans 15: 4, in this way: ***'For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.'*** Those who built the golden calf did not fully trust or obey YHVH. They eventually became afraid to enter the Promised Land and Elohim caused them to wander in the wilderness for the next 40 years, until all those who refused to follow Elohim's instructions died. Only after their death did YHVH prepare the next generation to enter the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua the

son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh. YHVH again warned the next generation of Israelites against merging pagan customs into their worship practices, as we read from Deuteronomy 12: 29 – 32, as follows: ***“When YHVH your Elohim cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, (30) beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ (31) You shall not behave thus toward YHVH your Elohim, for every abominable act which YHVH hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. (32) Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”*** We know that even after entering the Promised Land our forefathers failed to heed Elohim’s warnings. But, YHVH continued to warn them through His servants the prophets. We read one such warning in Jeremiah 10: 1 – 5, in this way: ***‘Hear the word which YHVH speaks to you, O house of Israel. (2) Thus says YHVH, “Do not learn the way of the nations, and do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens although the nations are terrified by them; (3) For the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. (4) They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter. (5) Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.”*** This was a warning against pagan practices of worshipping the host of heaven, such as the sun on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. But it is also a warning about the pagan custom of bringing Xmas trees, colorful lights and mistletoe and the like into our homes. YHVH is here again warning against learning the way of the Gentiles and teaching the same to our children.

We read a prophecy about what is going to happen to those called out by YHVH at this time from Jeremiah 16: 9 to 21, as follows: ***‘For thus says YHVH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel: “Behold, I am going to eliminate from this place, before your eyes and in your time, the voice of rejoicing and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride. (10) Now it will come about when you tell this people all these words that they will say to you, ‘For what reason has YHVH declared all this great calamity against us? And what is our iniquity, or what is our sin which we have committed against YHVH our Elohim?’ (11) Then you are to say to them, ‘It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me,’ declares YHVH, ‘and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law. (12) You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me. (13) So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I shall grant you no favor.’ (14) Therefore behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH, ‘when it will no longer be said, ‘As YHVH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ (15) but, ‘As YHVH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers. (16) Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,” declares YHVH, “and they will fish for them; and afterwards I shall send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and from the clefts of the rocks. (17) For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. (18) And I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols and with their abominations.” (19) O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to Thee the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit.” (20) Can man make gods for himself? Yet they are not gods! (21) Therefore behold, I am going to make them know — this time I will make them know My power and My might (i.e. Yahshua); and they shall know that My name is YHVH.”***

At this time many people assume that the so-called 'Old Testament' instructions condemning the inclusion of paganism, such as worshipping on Sundays, Xmas and Easter (including forefather worship) in worshipping YHVH our Elohim, were done away with during the times of the apostles. But they could not be more wrong! We see by reading from 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 18 & 7: 1, where Rav Shaul was telling these believers that pagan customs and practices had no place among the people of Elohim, in this way: ***'Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) Or what harmony has Messiah with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (16) Or what agreement has the temple of Elohim with idols? For we are the temple of the living Elohim; just as Elohim said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. (17) "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says YHVH. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. (18) "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says YHVH Almighty. (1) 'Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (set-apartness) in the fear of Elohim.'*** We see that the people from Thessalonica who were called out of paganism, followed Elohim fully, as we read from 1 Thessalonians 1: 8 & 9, as follows: ***'For the word of YHVH has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward Elohim has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. (9) For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to Elohim from idols to serve a living and true Elohim.'*** Even so, there are those who insist that since we now live under the so-called dispensation of grace, we need not be overly concerned about strict adherence to the Torah. But we read from Romans 6: 1 – 6, Rav Shaul saying: ***'What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? (2) May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? (3) Or do you not know that all of us who have been immersed into Messiah Yahshua have been immersed into His death? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through immersion into death, in order that as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.'*** For those who recall the day of their immersion, they will remember that Romans 6: 3 – 8 was part of the ceremony that we used.

Whereas, we like all Jews follow a cycle of Feast and fast days ordained by YHVH Himself; Christianity and their feast days and other customs were never based upon revelation from YHVH. Most of us are aware that after king Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two separate nations. This is when king Jeroboam started ruling the northern 10 tribes. He was responsible to change the date of the Feast of Tabernacles from the seventh to the eighth month of the Hebrew calendar, as we read from 1 Kings 12; 28 – 32, in this way: ***'So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them (his subjects), "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." (29) And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (30) Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan (in the north of Israel). (31) And he made houses (of worship) on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. (32) And Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.'*** It is because of this idolatry that the ten tribe nation of Israel were later taken captive and were eventually dispersed throughout the world. But today, almost two thousand years after Messiah walked the earth, Ezekiel describes the priests in Christianity in Ezekiel 22: 26, saying: ***"Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their***

***eyes from My Sabbaths and I am profaned among them.***” These are serious charges against the churches from where most of us are being called out at this time before Messiah’s return.

We, who are called out of the paganism of the world, should therefore be very careful not to condone the feast days observed by the religions around us, in any way. We need to heed the words of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah in Mark 7: 6 - 8, as follows; ***‘And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. (7) BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’ (8) Neglecting the commandment of Elohim, you hold to the tradition of men.’*** Yes it is true, Yahshua was addressing the Pharisees here, talking specifically about their tradition of washing their hands excessively before eating, but this equally applies to the many pagan traditions of Christianity who insist that they follow Messiah, the one they refer to as ‘C\*h\*r\*i\*s\*t, but instead of keeping Elohim’s Feast Days and eating only kosher foods, they insist that He abolished or obeyed Torah for them and they need not worry about it any longer. However reading from Matthew 5: 17 – 20, we see that He in fact taught just the opposite, saying: ***“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches other, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (20) For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*** By reading the rest of Matthew 5, we actually see that Yahshua made Torah more binding and did not abolish it, in any way. Rav Shaul also warns believers in Colossians 2: 8 not to be fooled to follow the false doctrines introduced by the churches of the world, saying: ***‘See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principle of the world, rather than according to Messiah.’*** We conclude therefore by reading about the false Babylonian religious systems of the world that only leads to confusion and are suitably warned to come out of it in Revelation 18: 4 – 5 in this way: ***‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; (5) for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities.’*** The choice at this time remains ours – if we keep the Feast days ordained by Elohim, we are definitely on the right track. Think about it!

#### **Thursday October 12 at 10.30am: ‘The Last Great Day 2017’.**

Why have countless millions of people died without ever having had a chance to understand the reason for life and to be saved? Even at this time, the majority of people have not heard Messiah’s true Gospel about the coming Kingdom of Elohim, and even if those who hear the true gospel finds it too incredible to believe and understand, Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown in their hearts as Yahshua confirmed in the first part of Matthew 13: 19, as follows: ***“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”*** A second witness to this comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, in this way: ***‘And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, wo is the image of Elohim.’*** Think about it! – Such people have not really had a chance to understand or be saved.

But, are they all ‘lost’ forever, through no fault of their own? Definitely not! Shocking as it may sound; Elohim does not want everyone to understand His truth at this time! We need to understand, that YHWH our Elohim is Almighty, and if He wanted them to understand at this time, they would definitely understand. Elohim, in that sense, is responsible for having allowed the majority of mankind to be blinded by Satan to His truth. The point is, that it is Elohim’s plan and purpose, that

until Messiah's return, only those whom He chose from the house of Judah (as per Psalm 78: 68) and those whom He has chosen specifically from the house of Israel during this age, including a small number of real Gentiles (as per Romans 11: 5), will understand, provided they remain faithful, as we read from John 6: 44<sup>3</sup>, but more specifically from Matthew 13: 11 & 12, as follows: **'And He (Yahshua) answered and said to them (His disciples), "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."** Yahshua severely criticized the towns in which He performed many of His miracles in Matthew 11: 21, saying: **"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."** The people of Tyre and Sidon eventually died in their idolatry, but, are they as some Christian denominations teach, eternally condemned? Yahshua was implying here that if Elohim had sent Him to these people in earlier ages, they would have repented. But, why were they allowed to be punished by the Babylonians, the Persians and the Greeks? Was Elohim trying to save them? We see further in Matthew 11: 23, Yahshua also admonished Capernaum, saying: **"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades (the grave); for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day."** Sodom and Gemorrah was destroyed by Elohim because of their severe sins, as witnessed in Genesis 19: 24 & 25. Some Christian denominations would like to condemn these people to eternal punishment, but Yahshua showed that if he had performed miracles in those cities, the people would have repented and they would not have been destroyed. The question is: Is Elohim fair? Yes, He is, and it is because he is a merciful Elohim and knows that the people of those towns were never taught His truths, they will be given their first opportunity to repent and be saved during the day of Judgment, as recorded in verses 22 & 24 of Matthew 11, in this way: **"Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. (24) Nevertheless I say to you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."** Elohim is a perfect example of love (mercy) and justice (severity). He punishes the wicked, who sins willfully, but the millions of people for whom Yahshua died, yet through no fault of their own did not come to know Him, Elohim has a plan to offer them salvation at a later time.

It is my purpose today, to give you a glimpse into this final step in Elohim's master plan of salvation for all mankind. After Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth, He will ensure that millions are taught Elohim's way of salvation. As mentioned in the teaching for Tabernacles, all those who survive the Great Tribulation and the Day of YHVH, as well as their children born during the Millennium will have their opportunity to understand Elohim's truth and be born into His Family during that time. But what about the millions who have died before, without ever hearing or understanding Elohim's way of salvation? They will be resurrected to mortal life, after the Millennium and be given their chance to understand Elohim's truths, to be begotten by Elohim's Spirit, to grow in His character, and to become spirit-born members of Elohim's Family. Even after telling this to some Nazarene/Messianic believers in the past, they found it too good to be true. So, allow me to show this truth you from your own Scriptures. We see from Leviticus 23: 34 – 36, that Elohim commanded His people to observe an eighth day of worship immediately after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, as follows: **"Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to YHVH. (35) On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. (36) For seven days you shall present and offering by fire to YHVH. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to YHVH; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work."** We see further from verse 39 that Elohim's people are to keep this eighth day as a separate festival, distinct from the Feast of Tabernacles, in this way: **'On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you**

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<sup>3</sup> John 6: 44: **"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."**

**have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YHVH for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.'** The last annual Sabbath is observed immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. Even though it is associated with the Feast of Tabernacles, it is clearly a separate festival. Because the eighth day is the final annual Set-apart Day, it came to be known as the Last Great Day.

We see that even after Elohim allowed the sons of Judah to return from their exile in Babylon with Ezra and Nehemiah, they learnt to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, including the Last Great Day again, as recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, in this way: **'And he (Ezra) read from the book of the law of Elohim daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.'** Yahshua commissioned His disciples (including us His modern day disciples) to follow His example to teach others in Matthew 28: 19 & 20, saying: **'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'** Yahshua kept all the Feast Days according to the Jewish calendar, including the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, in this way: **'Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.'** Yahshua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8 of John 7, and according to verses 10 & 14, He observed the Feast of Tabernacles with them, in this way: **'But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret. (14) But when it was now the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and began to teach.'** We read further from verses 37 & 38, that He also kept the Last Great day, as follows: **'Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."'** Yahshua said this on the eve of the Last Great Day, after the traditional water-pouring ceremony, which occurred on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. But, He was not talking about physical thirst; He was revealing that if any man has a spiritual thirst, he can receive the Set-apart Spirit by coming to Him. However, Messiah made it clear in John 6: 44 & 65 that no one can come to believe on Him unless the Father calls that person. Those from the house of Judah who remain Torah observant and the remnant whom Elohim calls from the house of Israel during this age have access to His Set-apart Spirit now. But for the vast majority, the realization of Yahshua's words will only occur during the spiritual fulfillment thereof on the Last Great day.

We see according to 2 Peter 3: 9, that Elohim eventually wants to save everyone, in this way: **'YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.'** This is confirmed in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, as follows: **'This is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'** However, we understand from 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 that there is a definite time-order or sequence according to which people will be saved, in this way: **'For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruit(s), after that those who are Messiah's at His coming, (24) then comes the end (ones) when He delivers up the kingdom to the Elohim and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.'** So we see that the only way to be saved for Israelites who did not remain faithful to Elohim (including Gentiles) is through Yahshua our Messiah, as is also confirmed in Acts 4: 11 & 12, as follows: **"He (Yahshua Messiah) is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. (12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."** Even as all men die, all will be made alive through Messiah (1 Corinthians 15: 22). Everyone who has ever lived and died will be resurrected. Messiah was the very first to be resurrected and born (again) from the dead (Colossians 1: 18), then at Messiah's return

true believers from both houses who lived before Messiah's Second Coming, as well as our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and others will be resurrected.

But, when will the rest of mankind, who never kept Torah, or believed in Messiah the embodiment of Torah, have their first chance to salvation? In 1 Corinthians 15: 24 Rav Shaul included them in *'the end'* – when Messiah completes His function of putting down every enemy (verse 25). We also get more details in the first part of Revelation 20: 5 and verses 11 & 12, where we are informed that it will only happen after the Millennium, in this way: ***'The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. (11) And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*** Those who have not heard or understood Elohim's truth have not been irrevocably condemned to eternal death. Even if they lived up to the best they knew while alive, the Scriptures teach that there is only one way to salvation for returning non-Jewish Israelites and Gentiles and that is through believe in Yahshua Messiah, followed by spiritual conversion and growth as defined in the Scriptures. Most of our loved ones who have died *'unsaved'* are not lost forever. They were most likely not called during this age, but their call will come after the Millennium, when they will be resurrected to mortal life and given spiritual understanding and the opportunity to become members of Elohim's Family. Rav Shaul understood that both houses of Israel were blinded spiritually and wrote accordingly in Romans 11: 32, ***'For Elohim has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.'***

Even though the house of Judah is Torah observant, believe in the coming Kingdom of Elohim, with a Messiah as ruler, they are at this time blinded to Messiah's identity, to allow a definitive number of us from the lost ten tribes to return to the covenant relationship we made with Elohim at Mount Sinai, at which time He will save the first fruits from both houses, to serve as kings and priests, like He wanted us to, when He gave us the Torah at Mount Sinai (as per Exodus 19: 6). Similarly is mankind in general (consisting of Israelites and all the Gentile nations of the world) blinded to the truth by YHVH, until after the Millennium, when He will open their minds to the truth, as is confirmed in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, as follows: ***'And on this mountain he will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and YHVH Elohim will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHVH has spoken. (9) And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our Elohim for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is YHVH for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."*** Yahshua revealed for us when the second resurrection will be, in His prophecy to Yochanan in the book of Revelation. But, suffice it to say at this point, that Isaiah 25: 8 shows that the removal of the veil mentioned in verse 7, will occur during the Great White Throne judgment, before death and the grave will be thrown into the lake of fire as recorded in Revelation 20: 14. But, before going there, let's consider what King David had to say about this time, of which Rav Shaul wrote in Philippians 2: 9 – 11, saying: ***'Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Yahshua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Yahshua Messiah is Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.'*** The question is; when will every knee bow before Yahshua? The vast majority of people lived and died without knowing Yahshua the Messiah, let alone the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of Elohim. This will only happen after the second resurrection as David testified in Psalm 22: 27 – 29, saying: ***'All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. (28) For the kingdom is (YHVH)'s, and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive*** (because he never knew Yahshua the Messiah).'



The Scriptures speak about those of us called at this time, who will be resurrected during the *'first'* resurrection, as first-fruits if we remain faithful to the end, in James 1: 18 as follows: ***'In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.'*** Logically, this implies that there will also be *'second-fruits'* during the second resurrection, as is also confirmed in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, (verse 5 quoted earlier included, because of its importance), in this way: ***'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Yahshua and because of the word of Elohim, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This (resurrection mentioned in verse 4) is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.'*** This clearly tells us that the second resurrection will only occur after the thousand year rule of Messiah. Also note that these are not *'the dead in Messiah'*, but simply those millions who never knew the true Messiah, and who never heard or understood the true gospel. The second resurrection will also be a resurrection to mortal life.

As normally mentioned during the Day of Atonement, Satan will be restrained throughout the millennium, to prevent him from deceiving the people during that time. We see from verse 7 of Revelation 20, that after the thousand years, he will be released from his prison and true to his nature, will again deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, namely Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war (verse 8). These are the nations who even though the truth was abundantly available throughout the Millennium, did not follow Elohim's way to be changed into His spirit-born children. We read what happens to Satan as well as to these nations from verses 9 & 10, in this way: ***'And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'*** This will prove to anyone who might doubt, that Satan will not repent, even after seeing the results of a thousand years of righteous rule. The humans, whom Satan will have deceived after his release, will prove that they were not interested in what they were being taught at the close of the thousand years. Satan and his demons will then be cast into the lake of fire. Some Scriptures use italics to show that the word *'are'* used in verse 10 was added by the translators. The correct translation in the Amplified Bible reads: *'where the beast and the false prophet were cast.'* The beast and the false prophet will have been cast into the lake of fire at the beginning of the Millennium as recorded in Revelation 19: 20. Like all human beings, made from physical matter, these two mortal beings will have been consumed by the fire, at the time Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire, and will have been dead for more than 1,000 years. The Great White Throne judgment will occur only after Satan's final rebellion and punishment. It will only be then that the rest of the dead will be resurrected as shown before in Revelation 20: 11 & 12. This will be the second resurrection, when all those who died in spiritual ignorance and deception in the past, will be resurrected to mortal life. Their time of salvation will only occur then! This is when the Books of the Scriptures will be opened to their minds, as we've read from Isaiah 25: 7 (quoted before).

As mentioned before in Matthew 11: 21 – 24, people who lived during Messiah's time on earth, as well as those who lived in Tyre and Sidon and Sodom and Gomorrah many years before, will be resurrected at that time. We read similarly from Matthew 12: 41 & 42, Yahshua telling the scribes and the Pharisees of His time, saying: ***"The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (42) The Queen of the South (Sheba) shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here."*** Yahshua

spoke of a time of judgment when those ancient peoples would be given an opportunity to understand what is written in the Scriptures and what He has been preaching to the people in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They too, will hear the true gospel at that time. They will most likely repent of their past sins and accept Messiah as their personal Passover.

Yahshua gave enough examples of people living at different times to prove that most of humanity will be brought back to life at the same time. They will rise in the second resurrection because they had not been called by Elohim during their first lifetime. This group includes all people of all times, except those who will have already been born of Elohim, and relatively few people who will have had their first opportunity to receive eternal life, during this age and during the millennium, as well as those who during the 100 year Great White Throne judgment period deliberately rejected it and sinned willfully. They will simply be resurrected to be destroyed in the lake of fire, as recorded in Malachi 4: 1, as follows: ***“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says YHVY of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”*** In fact the prophet Ezekiel described this resurrection to mortal life clearly in Ezekiel 37: 11 – 14, saying: ***‘Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ (12) Therefore prophesy, and say to them, ‘Thus says YHVH Elohim, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. (13) Then you will know that I am YHVH, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. (14) And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHVH, have spoken and done it,” declares YHVH,’”*** Ezekiel also tells us in Ezekiel 16: 55 that the Gentile nations will also be resurrected and return to their *“former state”*, saying: ***“And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will also return to your former state.”*** So we see that both Israelites and Gentiles who died in spiritual blindness and ignorance will be given a chance to receive salvation. Elohim is willing to overlook sins done in ignorance, but once spiritual understanding of His Master Plan is made available, He expects us to repent, be immersed into Yahshua’s saving name, and grow in grace and knowledge.

We see from Yahshua’s own words in John 5: 21 – 22 that He will be the chief judge in the last Great Judgment, as follows: ***“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he wishes. (22) For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”*** We also see from the first part of 1 Corinthians 6: 2, that resurrected true believers will assist Yahshua in judging the world, in this way: ***‘Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world?’*** The Hebrew word translated ‘books’ in Daniel 7: 10 where Daniel saw the Great White Throne Judgment in a vision in verses 9 & 10, (correspond to the Greek word translated ‘books’ in Revelation 20: 12), in this way: ***“I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. (10) A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat and the books were opened.”*** The transliterated Hebrew word for books here is ‘sepharim’ and the Greek word for books in Revelation 20: 12, is ‘Biblia’ from which the English Bible is derived. This means that the books of the Scriptures will be opened to the minds of these people in the second resurrection, so that they may fully understand what is written in them, similar to the way in which Messiah opened the minds of His disciples, after His resurrection, as recorded in Luke 24: 45, in this way: ***‘Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.’***

Many assume falsely that the word ‘judgment’ as used in the Scriptures, only means the pronouncement of a sentence based on past behavior. Such people came to believe that these people who lived and died in sin in the past, can do nothing to change their fate, even if they repent

of their past sins. Thankfully, we serve a merciful Elohim, always willing to forgive upon true repentance. We see from 1 Peter 4: 17 that those of us from the congregation of Elohim, are presently in the process of being judged by Elohim, as follows: ***'For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of Elohim; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of Elohim?'*** But, we understand from 1 Corinthians 11: 32, that this judgment is such, that we might avoid condemnation, in this way: ***'But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Master in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.'*** Elohim judges His people today by evaluating how well they live by His written word. Their rewards in His eternal Kingdom will depend on their character development during their mortal life. It is a process requiring time and opportunity for learning and growth. Those resurrected after the Millennium will be judged in exactly the same way. They, like spirit-begotten believers today, will be given enough time to prove that they are willing to live Elohim's way through a life of overcoming and obedience to Elohim. In this period of judgment after the 1,000 years, not only will the Scriptures be opened to their understanding, but the Book of Life will also be opened. Yes, these people will be given an opportunity to receive eternal life! Elohim, in fairness, will give them an opportunity for salvation, just as He gives to those He calls at this time. However, in this last great judgment, people will not be subject to Satan's influence as we are today. With Elohim's Spirit freely available, and freed from Satan's influences, they will be given their one and only opportunity for receiving salvation through repentance, immersion, receiving Elohim's Spirit and growing in Elohim's character during a second mortal life.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned the final days of the judgment period when the resurrected billions will receive their call to participate in Elohim's plan in Isaiah 65: 20 – 24, in this way: ***'No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed. (21) And they shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) They shall not build, and another inhabit, they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My chosen ones shall wear out the work of their hands. (23) They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by YHVH, and their descendants with them. (24) It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.'*** We see that these resurrected multitudes will be made participants in Elohim's Master Plan and given the opportunity to enter Elohim's family. We see further from verse 24 that they will have a close relationship with Elohim. Just think for a moment, the surprise of those resurrected at the beginning of the period of judgment. Each person will be in his first moment of consciousness since death; some might think they are in heaven, whilst others might think they are in hell or purgatory, depending what they were taught before they died. Most will be confused or even bewildered. Nothing that they have been taught about the afterlife will turn out to be true. They will suddenly be faced with undeniable evidence that their old teachings and ways were false, and they will be totally willing to start over and be taught the truth. But, who will teach these multiple millions? The millions of teachers/priests who will have been born into Elohim's Spiritual Family in the first resurrection and during the Millennium will teach them, under Messiah's direction.

After all Elohim's children are born into His Spiritual Family, the earth befouled by sin, will be cleansed of all defilement in the immersion of fire. We see from Revelation 20: 14, that finally man's greatest fear, namely death and the grave will be abolished, in this way: ***'And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire, this is the second death, the lake of fire.'*** After the lake of fire, a new heaven and a new earth will appear. The new earth will become the headquarters for all future creative projects of the Elohim Family. What a wonderful plan of salvation for all mankind has Elohim revealed to us in His annual Set-apart Days. What a marvelous, wonderful Elohim do we serve? We conclude by reading Rav Shaul's inspiring words in Romans 11: 33, in this way: ***'Oh, the***

***depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*** Halleluyah!

**Thursday October 12 at 2.30pm: Torah Portion Deuteronomy 33: 1 – 34: 12 (V'zot HaB'rachah); Haftarah portion Joshua 1: 1 – 18; and Renewed Covenant portion Matthew 17: 1 – 9 & Jude verses 8 & 9.**

The name of our final Torah portion is V'zot HaB'rachah, meaning *'this is the blessing'*. We read accordingly in verse 1 of Deuteronomy 33, ***'Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of Elohim blessed the sons of Israel before his death.'*** Notice that Moses is called a man of Elohim here – a title reserved for prophets only, in The Scriptures. Moses had a very close relationship with YHVH and He spoke to him face to face. YHVH told Moses in Exodus 19: 9, ***"Behold, I shall come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe in you forever."*** We see that even the Messiah was compared to Moses in Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, when YHVH told Moses, that He will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like him (meaning Yahshua), that YHVH will put His words in his mouth, and the he shall speak to them all that YHVH commands him.

Moses starts the blessings by giving honor to YHVH, as we read in verse 2 of Deuteronomy 33, ***"YHVH came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; at His right hand there was flashing lighting for them."*** The words at *'His right hand'* is a title for Messiah, used throughout The Scriptures. We need to realize that these blessings given by Moses, were not empty words, since what he said here,

all will or already came to fruition. Moses continues to praise YHVH in verse 3 through 5, as follows: ***“Indeed, He loves the people; All Thy holy ones are in Thy hand, and they followed in Thy steps; everyone receives of Thy words. (4) Moses charged us with a law, a possession for the assembly of Jacob. (5) And He (YHVH) was king in Jeshurun (Israel), when the heads of the people were gathered, the tribes of Israel together.”*** YHVH through Moses had to bring the tribes into submission, before they were united as the nation of Israel.

We read Moses’ first blessing in verse 6, like this: ***“May Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few.”*** Moses starts by blessing the tribe of Reuben first, since they were Jacob’s first born son, but lost this status, because Reuben took his father’s concubine and should according to the Torah that Moses wrote, be put to death. The only blessing that Moses could give this Tribe, was that they may live and multiply. However, this blessing also entails living in the world to come and it does not negate the blessings that Jacob gave to Reuben and his other sons in Genesis 49. Moses continues to bless Judah in verse 7, saying: ***“Hear, O YHVH, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people. With his hands he contended for them; and mayest Thou be a help against his adversaries.”*** Moses asks that YHVH hears the prayers of Judah – the Jews pray daily for the outcasts of Israel to be brought back (gathered) to the land of Israel, even though not all Jews recognize the fact that we are also Israelites. Judah are the ones who always tried to keep the tribes together. Judah has many adversaries, but YHVH has always helped them to survive as a group, easily distinguished by their Torah way of life.

***(8), ‘And of Levi he said, “Let Thy Thummin and Thy Urim belong to Thy godly man, whom Thou didst prove at Massah, with whom Thou didst content at the waters of Meribah; (9) Who said of his father and his mother, ‘I did not consider them’; and he did not acknowledge his brothers, nor did he regard his own sons, for they observed Thy word, and kept Thy covenant. (10) They shall teach Thine ordinances to Jacob, and the law to Israel. They shall put incense before Thee, and whole burnt offerings on Thine altar. (11) O YHVH, bless his substance, and accept the work of his hands; shatter the loins of those who rise up against him, and those who hate him, so that they may not rise again.”*** Even though this sound like Levi did not honor their parents, this was said about them, since as priests they could not even bury their closest family members. We see that Yahshua our High Priest, similarly did not show regard for His family, as we read in Matthew 12: 46 – 50, as follows: ***“While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. (47) And someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.”(48) But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are MY brothers?” (49) And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold, My mother and My brothers! (50) For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”*** Those Levites who know their identity, are presently to be found amongst the tribe of Judah. There are also Levites amongst the lost ten tribes, but they like the other tribes have lost their identity and do not know that they are Levites. The Levites who are presently amongst the Jews are responsible to establish the timing of the Set-apart Days annually, as may be seen in Malachi 2: 1 – 8. The Levites amongst the other tribes are usually the ones who teach Elohim’s people Torah.

In Deuteronomy 33: 12, we read: ***‘Of Benjamin he said, “May the beloved of YHVH dwell in security by Him, Who shields him all the day, and he dwells between His shoulders.”*** According to Yair Davidy, most of the descendants of Benjamin are to be found amongst the Jewish people. Benjamin is also a major contributor to Belgium as well as the Normans who conquered England and part of France. As part of Judah, they dwell amongst Elohim’s lawgivers, and as a result those of them who dwell amongst the Jews, have had the blessings from obeying Torah. In addition, YHVH protects the tribe of Judah and those who dwell with them.

(13) *'And of Joseph he said, "Blessed of YHVH be his land, with the choice things of heaven, with the dew, and from the deep lying beneath, (14) and with the choice yield of the sun, and with the choice produce of the months. (15) And with the best things of ancient mountains, and with the choice things of the everlasting hills, (16) And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush, let it come to the head of Joseph, and to the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers. (17) As the first-born of his ox, majesty is his, and his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall push the peoples, all at once, to the ends of the earth. And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and those are the thousands of Manasseh."* We have seen previously when Jacob blessed his sons in Genesis 48 and 49, that Britain was identified as being Ephraim and the USA as being Manasseh. We know that the crown and majesty referred to in the quoted verses are definitely the United Kingdom, with Queen Elizabeth II presently occupying the throne. The British Empire included ten thousands of people in its hay day, compared to the thousands of the United States of America. Because of colonization, the sun never set on the British Empire. Countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong and Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now known as Zambia and Zimbabwe) were once part of the commonwealth, ruled by the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom as well as the USA definitely received a double portion: together they possessed the gates of their enemies; both were for many years considered the policeman of the world; both owned most of the mineral resources of the world, and were blessed with the best of agricultural products, sheep, cattle, corn and wine. However, because of the multiple sins in these two world empires, they will bear the brunt of the soon coming time of trouble, known as the Great Tribulation. It will be as we read in Matthew 24: 21 & 22, as follows: *"for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short."*

(18) *'And of Zebulun he said, "Rejoice, Zebulun in your going forth, and Issachar, in your tents. (19) They shall call peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer righteous sacrifices; for they shall draw out the abundance of the seas, and the hidden treasures of the sand."* We identified Zebulun as being the Dutch, from Jacob's blessing in Genesis 49: 13, since they are the only people who dwell on the shores of the sea. South Africa was colonized mainly by people of British and Dutch descent, so the white people as well as those who intermixed with them are definitely Israelites. South Africa used to produce most of the world's diamonds (and gold), which are processed and traded in Belgium, where about half the population are also of Dutch descent. Interestingly enough the stone of Zebulun on the breastplate of the High Priest, was a diamond. Getting back to the quoted Scriptures, it is of interest to note that groups of Zebulun are often found in association with groups from Issachar. The people in places like Lorraine in France come from both Issachar and Zebulun, and their region form a bridge from Switzerland to Belgium and Holland. The people of South Africa draw diamonds out of the sea, as well as gold and diamonds from the sand.

I would like to mention yet another interesting sidelight here: Some of you might recall how a few years ago a group of believers in Worcester in the Western Cape, here in South Africa prophesied using verses 18 and 19 of Deuteronomy 33 as a starting point. They believed that South African Messianic/Nazarene believers (consisting of descendants from Zebulun and Issachar) will call people together at a mountain range near a place called Pelle in the Northern Cape. These people would establish a settlement in or near Pelle and will dwell in tents (temporary dwellings) keeping the Feast of Tabernacles prior to the great tribulation, and the return of Messiah. They will also be protected there from what will be happening in the rest of the nations of Israel. They prophesied that the USA will be destroyed by 2007 and the world would have been in utter chaos by now. In a way they were a few years out with their predictions, in that the entire world is today in the throes of a major economic crises. We are all in trouble, because the UK and the USA do not have money to buy our products any longer. Yes this is the beginning of what is coming, but this prophesying group

were wrong about Pelle, because they do not fully understand what the symbols in The Scriptures represent.

As I mentioned before, stars in The Scriptures represent angels. Mountains and hills in the Scriptures are indicative of Governments, as may be understood from Isaiah 2: 2 & 3, in this way: ***'Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. (3) And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.'*** These folk from Worcester were correct in that there are Nazarene Israelite groups in South Africa, teaching other people in the world about the coming kingdom of Elohim (the chief of the mountains) and will offer righteous sacrifices, but they were wrong, in that it has nothing to do with physical mountains in South Africa. We read further about these sacrifices or offerings in Zephaniah 3: 10, as follows: ***'From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshippers, My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.'***

Deuteronomy 33: 20, ***'And of Gad he said, "Blessed is the one who enlarges Gad; He lies down as a lion, and tears the arm, also the crown of the head. (21) Then he provided the first part for himself, for there the ruler's portion was reserved; and he came with the leaders of the people; he executed the justice of YHVH, and His ordinances with Israel."*** The Swedes are derived mainly from the tribe of Gad as evidenced by Tribal names amongst the Goths and Gothic allies and other groups, such as the Heruli who settled in Sweden. One of the symbols of Gad was a lion and lions appear on the Swedish Coat of Arms. Father Jacob prophesied of Gad, in Genesis 49: 19, saying: ***"as for Gad, raiders shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels."*** This prophecy was perhaps fulfilled, when the Huns overcame the Goths and forced them to participate in the western invasions. On Attila's death a revolt by the Goths and their kin destroyed the Hun domination.

(22) ***'And of Dan he said, "Dan is a lion's whelp, that leaps forth from Bashan."*** The tribe of Dan occupied two different areas in Israel prior to the Assyrian captivity. One part of the tribe lived on the coast of Palestine. They were seafarers, as may be seen in Judges 5: 17. When the Assyrians took the rest of the nation of Israel captive, these people sailed via the Mediterranean sea to Ireland. Irish history show that these settlers in Ireland were known as the "Tuatha de Danaans", which means the Tribe of Dan. The northern part of the tribe of Dan was taken captive with the rest of the nation of Israel. After leaving Assyria, they moved west and set up landmarks in Denmark and on arrival to the British Isles; they set up landmarks, in Wales and Scotland and later joined their brothers in Ireland.

(23) ***'And of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full of the blessing of YHVH, take possession of the sea and the south."*** Norway was settled by groups who mainly descended from Naphtali. The Israelite tribe of Naphtali became the Nephtali-Huns. The symbol of Naphtali was a stag or deer, which was also a symbol of Scandinavian royalty. The Norwegian coat of arms depicts a lion bearing an ax. Even though Naphtali was primarily to be found in Norway and Zebulun in Holland, Naphtali also had historical connections to the area of Holland and groups relating to Naphtali were found amongst the Dutch, many of whom settled in South Africa. In addition, Vikings from Norway had settled in northwest England. Vikings also settled in parts of Wales and Ireland, and Dan gave rise to the Viking movement. It may well be that amongst the English and Dutch settlers of South Africa were many descendants from Naphtali, as is confirmed in the last part of their blessing.

(24) ***'And of Asher he said, "More blessed than sons is Asher; may he be favored by his brothers, and may he dip his foot in oil. (25) Your locks shall be iron and bronze, and according to your days, so shall your leisurely walk be. "'*** The tribe of Asher was mainly found in Northern England and

Scotland. The Scots are the only tribe loved (or favored) by all of its sister nations. The part of the blessing about *'he dip his foot in oil'* refers to the oil found in the North Sea between Scotland and Norway. In addition, most of the Scots have either black or red hair.

In verses 26 – 29, Moses continues to bless the nation of Israel as a whole and mentions that they are blessed because YHVH is their Elohim. We read in summary in verse 29, as follows: ***“Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by YHVH, who is the shield of your help, And the sword of your majesty! So your enemies shall cringe before you, and you shall tread upon their high places.”***

We continue in the final chapter of Deuteronomy, which also completes our annual Torah cycle. We read in verses 1 - 3 of Deuteronomy 34, ***‘Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And YHVH showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, (2) and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, (3) and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.’*** In the next two verses YHVH tells Moses that the land that He showed him, is the land which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give to their descendants; but that he will not be allowed to go over to it. Next we see that Moses died and was buried by YHVH in the land of Moab, but no man knows where he was buried. We also read that although Moses was 120 years old, his eyes were not dim, nor did his energy decline. We also read that the sons of Israel wept for Moses and mourned for thirty days in the plains of Moab.

Next we read in verse 9 of Deuteronomy 34, that Joshua the son of nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid hands on him and the sons of Israel listened to Him, as they used to listen to Moses. We know that king Solomon asked YHVH for wisdom when He became king in David’s place, but we also read a prophesy about Yahshua, the name sake of Joshua in Isaiah 11: 1 & 2, as follows: ***‘Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from its roots will bear fruit. (2) And the spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH.’*** We conclude with the final few verses of Deuteronomy 33, where we read that: (10) ***‘Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom YHVH knew face to face, (11) for all the signs and wonders which YHVH sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, (12) and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.’*** We know for a fact that only Yahshua matched and far exceeded the miracles that Moses performed. We know that Moses saw the form or manifestation of YHVH. In other words he saw and spoke to the visible image of YHVH, who later became the ‘man’ Yahshua. We read accordingly in John 1: 18, ***‘No man has seen Elohim at any time; the only begotten Elohim<sup>4</sup>, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.’***

I leave you with a final question to ponder: If Moses died in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 34, who wrote the final eight verses of the book? We end the last book of Deuteronomy with the blessing: **Chazak Chazak V’Nit Chazak! (Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened).**

Note: Information about the twelve tribes of Israel discussed in this Torah portion is obtained from Yair Davidy’s book entitled: “The Tribes.” Copies of this and other books on the same subject may be ordered from Yair Davidy at: Brit-Am Israel, P.O. Box 595, Jerusalem. 91004. Email: [britam@netvision.net.il](mailto:britam@netvision.net.il)

**Joshua 1: 1 – 18 & Matthew 17: 1 – 9; Jude 1: 8 – 9.**

This Haftarah portion is read with Torah portion V’zot Ha B’rachah (Deuteronomy 33: 1 to 34: 12); and Renewed Covenant portions Matthew 17: 1 - 9 and Jude 1: 8 & 9. Whereas in the final Torah

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<sup>4</sup> *The New American Standard Bible, which I use most of the time, has a footnote stating: Some later manuscripts read Son.*



portion, Moses blessed the twelve tribes before they entered into the promised land; YHVH showed him the promised land from mount Nebo, after which Moses died and is buried in the valley in the land of Moab, without anybody knowing the place of his burial; the haftarah portion is about the Israelites entering the promised land with Joshua the son of Nun. We also read in the final Torah portion that Joshua was specially prepared to take over from Moses, by receiving the spirit of wisdom.

We start reading from Joshua 1: 1 & 2, as follows: ***'Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of YHVH that YHVH spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant saying, (2) Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.'*** Here YHVH uses the same words that He spoke to Abraham when He reaffirmed the everlasting covenant that He made with him. We see that the borders of the promised land is far larger than the small piece of land known as Israel today, as we read from verses 3 & 4, in this way: ***'Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory.'*** The borders of the Promised Land are the Mediterranean seacoast in the west, the Euphrates River in the east, the wilderness to the south of the Nile of Egypt and the Lebanon in the north. In verses 5 & 6 Joshua is again assured of Elohim's help and support in the battle before him, in this way: ***'No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. (6) Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.'*** The strength and courage of those who fight for Israel comes from knowing that Elohim is with them and would not forsake them. Moses repeated these words to Joshua in the presence of the nation, to encourage him and to remind him that his leadership carried the full approval of Elohim.

These same words are again repeated in verses 7 - 9 to Joshua by YHVH, with the condition that he keeps the commandments given to Moses as follows: ***'Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. (8) This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. (9) Have I commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for YHVH your Elohim is with you wherever you go.'*** The book of the Law refers to the five books of the Torah which YHVH gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. YHVH promised Joshua His blessings for the responsibility that He has given him to lead the nation into the Promised Land. The belief that YHVH is with us is essential to every spiritual endeavor that we undertake, and the same staying competence was also present in Abraham and Moses. We consequently read about Joshua's actions in verses 10 – 15, in this way: ***'Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, (11) Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you, to possess it.' (12) And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, (13) Remember the word which Moses the servant of YHVH commanded you, saying, 'YHVH your Elohim gives you rest, and will give you this land.' (14) Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them, (15) until YHVH gives your brothers rest, as He gives you, and they also possess the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of YHVH gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.'*** Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh in Genesis 48, so that here as since the 18<sup>th</sup> century they actually received a double portion of the blessings, allowing for

12 allotments of the land, with Levi being excluded because of their spiritual duties. We see that YHVH gave the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh the land directly across the Jordan river on the east. However, it was their duty to assist the other tribes to invade and secure their portions of the land, as they replied to Joshua in verses 16 – 18, as follows: ***‘And they answered Joshua, saying, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. (17) Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may YHVH your Elohim be with you, as He was with Moses. (18) Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous.”’***

We read the first Renewed Covenant portion from Matthew 17: 1 & 2, in this way: ***‘And six days later Yahshua took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. (2) And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.’*** The reference to the number of days that elapsed from the time of Yahshua’s promise in Matthew 16: 28, saying that some of the disciples would be alive to see Him coming to His kingdom, referred to the six thousand years of mankind’s mismanagement, before He will return to rule us from Jerusalem. But His actual statement came true in that He underwent a dramatic change in appearance, so the three disciples saw Him in His kavod or Shechinah glory and in this way He also showed them what He would look like when He returns one day, as pictured in Revelation 1: 14 & 15, as follows: ***‘And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire, (15) and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.’*** Continuing from verse 3 of Matthew 17, we read: ***‘And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.’*** The question is: Why did Moses and Elijah appear with Yahshua? Both Moses and Elijah prophesied about Yahshua and together the three, represented the authenticity of the Scriptures that we have available to us today; Moses represented the Torah, Elijah the prophets and Yahshua the Renewed Covenant.

We read further from verse 4, ***‘And Peter answered and said to Yahshua, “Master, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”’*** This was undoubtedly a reference to the Feast of Tabernacles, which pictures the millennium during which Yahshua will come into His kingdom, and when both Moses and Elijah will fulfill major roles. We read about the dramatic incident that followed from verse 5, as follows: ***‘While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”’*** This calls to mind Moses’ prophesy about Yahshua in Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, in this way: ***‘I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (19) And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.’*** Both Moses and Elijah prophesied about Yahshua and at that time Peter incorrectly assumed that Moses and Elijah was on par with Yahshua, but when he and the other disciples heard the Father’s voice, they became afraid as we read from verse 6 of Matthew 17, ***‘And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. (7) And Yahshua came to them and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.”’*** His disciples fell down when they realized that the Creator of the universe was present with them.

We read the same account recorded by Luke in chapter 9: 32 – 35, as follows: ***Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. (33) And it came about, as these were parting from Him, Peter said to Yahshua, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah”- not realizing what he was saying. (34) And while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as***

**they entered the cloud. (35) And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son. My Chosen One; Listen to Him!"** Notice again the cloud that formed and covered the disciples here. We conclude this portion by reading verses 8 & 9 of Matthew 17, in this way: **'And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Yahshua Himself alone. (9) And as they were coming down from the mountain, Yahshua commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."'**

Before moving on, we need to look at an alleged anomaly in the Scriptures which is often cited when reading about the transfiguration of Messiah. Let's turn to 2 Kings 2: 8 – 11, where we read the following about Elijah: **'And Elijah took his mantle and folded it together and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. (9) Now it came about when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." (10) And he said, "You have asked a hard thing, Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." (11) Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.'** For many centuries people have been taught that Elijah was taken from this planet to the realm where Elohim lives and from which He rules, even though the Scriptures clearly states that no one except Messiah has ascended into the heaven where Elohim's throne is located, as we read from John 3: 13, as follows: **'And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.'** Do we believe Yahshua the word of Elohim? But, I hear some asking: is our father Abraham not in heaven? What about David?

We read in the faith chapter in the Renewed Covenant in Hebrews 11: 8 – 10, **'By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; (10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is Elohim.'** But these our fathers in the faith did not receive what they were promised. We read accordingly in verses 39 & 40 of Hebrews 11, **'And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because Elohim had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.'** We read the same thing about king David, in Acts 2: 29 – 34: **'Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that ELOHIM HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, (31) he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY. (32) This Yahshua Elohim raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (33) Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of Elohim, and having received from the Father the promise of the Set-apart Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (34) For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'YHVH SAID TO MY MASTER, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND.'''** Do we believe in the resurrection of the dead? And if we do, then why do we want to go to heaven - if Yahshua is coming back to resurrect the dead?

But what about Elijah? The Scriptures clearly show that Elijah was taken up into heaven. However, I would like to point out that there are three heavens mentioned in The Scriptures. The first is the atmosphere surrounding earth to a depth of about forty miles, in the lower part of which birds fly and we read about it in Genesis 1: 20, in this way: **'Then Elohim said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."'** The second heaven is the space of the whole universe, the starry expanse that is billions and billions of miles across, spoken about in Genesis 1: 14 – 16, as follows: **'Then Elohim said, "Let there be**

**lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years; (15) and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth; and it was so. (16) And Elohim made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also.'** A second witness to this is given in Ezekiel 32: 8, **'All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you and will set darkness on your land, declares YHVH Elohim.'** The third heaven is the unseen place or throne from which Elohim controls the whole universe, as we read from Isaiah 66: 1, in this way: **'Thus says YHVH, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?'** We read further about it from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12: 2, as follows: **'I know a man in Messiah who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, Elohim knows – such a man was caught up to the third heaven.'** Deuteronomy 10: 14 and Psalm 148: 4 refers to it as **'the highest heaven'**; and Ephesians 4: 10 refers to it, as **'above all the heavens'**.

The first heaven, or atmosphere, is the one into which Elijah was taken. We live and move in that heaven, inasmuch as we need air to keep us alive. Elijah was taken up to a high altitude, but still remained in the first heaven. Elijah was taken from his previous domain in Israel, but he did not die at that time. He was taken to a different environment some distance away where he was not known, to peacefully live out the rest of his life there. Even so, Elijah kept in touch with the events happening both in Israel and Judah. A full four years after his disappearance, when Jehoram, an evil man was king of Judah, Elijah wrote to Jehoram, warning him that he would soon become diseased and die because of the terrible things he had done, as we read from 2 Chronicles 21: 12, like this: **'Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet saying, "Thus says YHVH Elohim of your father David, "Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father and the ways of Asa king of Judah.'** Some Bible commentaries try to hide this fact, by writing that Elijah must have written this letter before he went to 'heaven'. How long did Elijah live after sending this letter is not recorded in the Scriptures, but we will be able to ask him, when he is resurrected at Yahshua's return one day. That is when all of those who qualified will be resurrected and be taken into the first heaven or the clouds, to meet Yahshua coming down from the third heaven to rule earth for the next thousand years. Another example of a person being snatched away by the Set-apart Spirit is found in Acts 8, after Philip immersed the eunuch in verses 38 – 40, as follows: **'And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he immersed him. (39) And when they came up out of the water the Spirit of the Master snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip found himself at Azotus; and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all cities, until he came to Caesarea.'**

At this point we also need to touch on another related subject that is equally misunderstood and has been taught about Yahshua's return; many believe in a so-called rapture into heaven, to occur when Yahshua returns one day. This erroneous belief stems from the fact that most understand the presence of YHVH on Mount Sinai to be the Father as a distinct being from the Son. Most in Churchianity thinks of YHVH as being the YHVH of the 'Old Testament' and Yahshua as being the YHVH of the 'New Testament'. But we see according to the song that Moses and the sons of Israel sang in Exodus 15: 2, **"YHVH is my strength and song and He has become my salvation (or Yahshua)."** This is confirmed in Isaiah 43: 10 & 11 and 63: 8, where YHVH says through Isaiah, **"You are My witnesses." Declares YHVH, "And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Elohim formed, and there will be none after Me. (10) I, even I, am YHVH; and there is no savior besides Me."** Isaiah 63: 8, **'For He said, "Surely, they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely." So He became their Savior.'** We can therefore say that Yahshua was the manifestation of YHVH, who revealed Himself to Moses (as may be read in Numbers 12: 8) and the same One who gave the Torah to both houses of Israel on Mount Sinai. It must have been Yahshua who came to earth on Mount Sinai, appearing as

fire. Yahshua is the visible image of the invisible Elohim (as per Colossians 1: 15), whom no one has ever seen as we read from First Timothy 6: 16. When Yahshua appeared on Mount Sinai, He did not appear as a flesh and blood 'Human Being' as He did when He was incarnated as the Son of Elohim, but as fire.

We need to understand that Moses' ascent and descent on Mount Sinai was a type or pattern of Yahshua's ascension to heaven, from where He is about to return. Rav Shaul understood Yahshua's second coming to be patterned after Moses' descent from Mount Sinai. We understand this by comparing Exodus 19: 18 - 20 and 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 & 17, as follows: (18) ***'Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because YHVH descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.*** (19) ***When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder Moses spoke and Elohim answered him with thunder.*** (20) ***And YHVH came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.'*** 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 & 17, ***'For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.'*** We see in Exodus 19: 18 'YHVH descended' and in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 'the Master Himself will descend from heaven.' In Exodus 19: 19 we read 'the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder' and in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16, 'the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of YHVH', and in Exodus 19: 20, 'Moses went up' and in 1 Thessalonians 4: 17, 'Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air.' Rav Shaul who was familiar with the Torah and how Moses went up to Mount Sinai and came back 40 days later, knew that the pattern of Yahshua's second coming was laid by Moses many years before.

We see further patterns of Yahshua's return, when Moses actually came down from Mount Sinai. Moses ascended and descended Mount Sinai 8 times, and each time he confirmed additional details about Yahshua's second coming. We read from Exodus 24: 13 – 18, as follows: ***'So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the Mountain of Elohim. (14) But to the elders he said, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them." (15) Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. (16) And the glory of YHVH rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. (17) And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of YHVH was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. (18) And Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.'*** The incidents that occurred here pictured a pattern of Yahshua's resurrection, ascension, and second coming. Before Moses went up to the Mountain of Elohim, he said to the elders, 'Wait here for us until we return to you.' This is almost similar to the words that Yahshua used in Luke 24: 46, as follows: 'you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.' We also see from Acts 1: 9, ***'And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.'***

Moses went up to the mountain and remained there for 40 days, a prophetic view of the 40 Jubilees that Yahshua has remained in heaven, since His ascension (40 Jubilees = 40 times 50 years = 2000 years). The resurrected dead in Messiah and those believers who are alive and will be changed at Yahshua's return to meet Him in the air (in 1 Thessalonians 4: 17), is a picture of the ancient Hebrew wedding ceremony, when the bridegroom returns, as we read in Matthew 25: 6, ***"But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'*** We see from Acts 1: 10 - 12, ***'And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." (12) Then they returned to Jerusalem from***

***the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.'*** Yahshua will return to the Mount of Olives (a Sabbath day's journey from Jerusalem) on Yom Teruah, an annual Sabbath. We see further from Matthew 24: 30 that Yahshua will return in or on the clouds of heaven, as follows: ***'And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.'***

We also read about Yahshua's return to the Mount of Olives from Zechariah 14: 4, in this way: ***'And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.'*** Those who will meet Yahshua in the clouds will be with Him forever where He is. We read further from Revelation 5: 10 and 20: 6 that those resurrected and changed at Messiah's return, will rule under Him for a thousand years, right here on earth. So, we see that if we qualify, we will be with Yahshua right where He is here on earth. We also see that those who will see His return in the clouds on the Mount of Olives, will be gathered together from one end of the sky to the other, as recorded in verse 31 of Matthew 24, like this: ***"And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER HIS elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."*** The angels will bring the elect from all over the world to Jerusalem, from where they will meet up with our Master Yahshua on the Mount of Olives, which will be covered by clouds.

We read the final Renewed Covenant portion from Jude 1: 8, as follows: ***'Yet in the same manner these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.'*** These men's minds were numbed to the truth of Elohim's word so that being deceived they fantasized wicked perversions, and became blinded to reality and the truth. The word *'these'* occurs 5 more times in reference to those who have fallen away from the true faith, who are characterized in 3 ways: namely (a) they defile the flesh and have few moral restraints and are frequently characterized by immoral lifestyles – similar to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah; (b) they reject all authority, civil and spiritual, thus rejecting the Scriptures and contradicting the Master Yahshua; and (c) they revile angelic majesties as is supported by verse 9. We conclude by reading verse 9, ***'But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "YHVH rebuke you."*** Michael is one of the archangels especially watching over Israel and even he did not pronounce a railing against Satan. People, who revile angels, are not concerned about what the Scriptures have to say regarding angels. An example being in 1 Corinthians 11: 10, where we read: ***'Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.'*** Nowhere else in the Scriptures is this struggle over the body of Moses mentioned - Michael fought with Satan in order to hide from him the burial place of Moses.

As mentioned before, Moses died in Moab and did not enter the promised land, but we are certain that both He and Elijah will be resurrected one day to enter the kingdom of Elohim, as we read in Hebrews 11: 23, 32 – 34, as follows: ***'By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.'*** (32) ***And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,*** (33) ***who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,*** (34) ***quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.'*** As quoted before in Hebrews 11: 39 & 40, all these believers who already gained approval to enter the kingdom of Elohim, have not yet received the promise, as they are waiting for us, the rest of the first fruits, when we will all be in the first resurrection, after Messiah. HalleluYah!

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